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## Sorgo Department.

*The Rural World is the only journal in the United States having a special department devoted to syrup and sugar making from sorgo.*

### Central Sugar Factory and a Proposition.

BY L. A. HEDGES.

There is a decided tendency to advance the syrup and sugar operations to a larger scale, and in most cases to the central system, similar to the cheese factories and butter dairies. It will be perceived that this plan is being adopted in Louisiana, as stated in the letter from my old friend, Dougherty, in another place. The business, as he says, of culture and manufacture is directly different and calls for quite a different study. I have had occasion to answer many inquiries on this subject since our late meeting, and, inasmuch as this matter is claiming much attention, I will submit my views measurably as contained in a correspondence with an organization, in Rice Co., Kas., known as a cane growers' association. They propose to plant and cultivate such varieties of cane as are best suited to their locality, to the extent of 500 acres, more or less, and deliver the same in good condition, with leaves and seed attached, but well cured and bound in bundles. The manufacturing company to buy the same by weight, paying \$2 per ton. This will complete the planter's contract. It will be observed that the labor of stripping and topping is dispensed with on the farm, and his (the farmer's) land left clean for the next crop. Should ratoons start up, cultivation is unincumbered, and, in many cases, another syrup crop may be realized, or at least a fair crop of first-class forage may be obtained, which may be cut with a mower or dropper reaper, which should be set high enough to clear the old stubs. If this is well shocked up it will serve as feed most of the winter. I refer to this now lest it is overlooked by those making arrangements for the future—we must utilize every feature of this valuable crop. I return to the subject of this communication. The manufacturer must provide his works to as fully utilize the product of the planter, as is suggested for the latter. He first clips off the seed tufts freely and then grinds the canes with the dry leaves, having a mill of ample capacity to do it well. The leaves assist to make fuel with the residue of the pressed cane. He makes his fires for steaming or boiling the juice, as the case may be. The skimmings and washings of his pans, tanks, etc., are turned into suitable reservoirs and the seed tufts and scattered trash all thrown in the hot sugar house slop (so to call it), which will soon become the most desirable hog or cattle feed that can be produced from any known crop. That manufacturers can realize a good paying business, the following calculations will prove; and I am not charged with over-estimating on this subject:

Each ton of cane will make 12 gallons of 12-pound syrup, and each ton will afford 100 weight of seed, exclusive of the spindle and foot-stalks of the tufts, all of which are largely nutritious. Now, by analysis, we learn the seed to possess 64 per cent. starch, and then add to this the sugar in the serum, as well as the abundance of vegetable gum and green herbaceous matter, and this feed will make as much pork or beef as the same weight of corn, or, in other words, each ton of cane will afford material to produce 20 pounds of pork. Now, if a works of 40 tons per day capacity is taken as a basis, we can estimate as follows: 12 gallons per ton, 480 gallons, at 30 cents, \$144; 20 lbs. of pork to each ton, 40 tons, 800 lbs. at 3 cts., \$24; daily total, \$168.

I am rejoiced to learn that the Legislature of your State (Missouri) is about to be asked for such aid. I sincerely trust that they in their wisdom will grant it. I also hope that the other States interested will take the same steps. Then will be raised up a corps of trained experts to go into every county, whose intelligent labors will soon develop the sorgo sugar industry into a triumphant financial success.

E. F. NEWBERRY, M. D.

I do not favor new beginners starting out upon a sugar basis; it may do when you have tested machinery and experienced operatives, but the first season had better be devoted to the primary lessons, and then saving on the first cost of the works may be put on the second season, as sugar-making calls for many fixtures not required in a syrup works, although all the syrup apparatuses are needed in sugar-making. This company referred to is in the same position of many others, and are looking eastward and to our association for co-operating energy and capital, and it is just and proper they should. Our organization is based upon a broad platform, and, as one of its officers, I can say that whether it is in search of new varieties of cane, new methods to work or capital to help the producer to develop his crop and work it up, I consider each and all alike important, and I am pleased to know that our corresponding secretary, Col. Colman (now breasting the inclement season in the far north), entertains the same views, and will gladly respond to inquiries from either source. Thus is one feature of this business more favorable this year, viz: The early inquiries, that is right. The loss from being too late has always been severe. Manufacturers make such large works only upon contracts, and time is required to fill orders.

**Legislative Aid for the Sorgo Industry.**

COL. COLMAN: The time has arrived when, in the writer's opinion, to insure the full and complete development of the sorgo sugar industry, the Legislatures of the respective cane growing States must extend to it their prompt and generous aid. The pioneers in the movement have heretofore been sailing against wind and tide. They see land in sight, but their strength is failing. They have shown their faith and endurance by their works. Pioneers in nearly all new enterprises are poor men—in this one especially so. Experiments which would, beyond a doubt, result in complete development of the industry, are likely to remain unfinished for want of means. Capital is timidly so. It is not business to invest money without reasonable assurance of fair dividends in return. Let the value of the sugar industry be established, and money will flow to it like water. But how can capitalists be expected to build central factories in every county of the different cane growing States, when the experts, competent to manage the same, can be counted on much less than the ten fingers? How can a sufficient number of experts then be prepared? Only by being trained at an experimental school established and maintained by the State. There every experiment of any promise should be fully tested. There the whole business should be taught practically—from the preparation of the ground and the planting of the seed, through the different stages of cultivation and manufacture—to the draining and handling of the sugar. For every dollar expended in such a school, would soon be returned to the State a thousand-fold. Every year of delay is so much lost.

France and Germany understood this matter when they established their governmental sugar schools, and the result is that they make nearly all their own sugar. The sorgo plant promises better than the beet. Chemists and practical men know that fact. If Jupiter will only help the poor fellows at the wheel, the car will roll along. I believe that, as a rule, our legislators are progressive men. They wish to aid in developing every legitimate and worthy enterprise.

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### Sugar Works on the Agricultural College Farm.

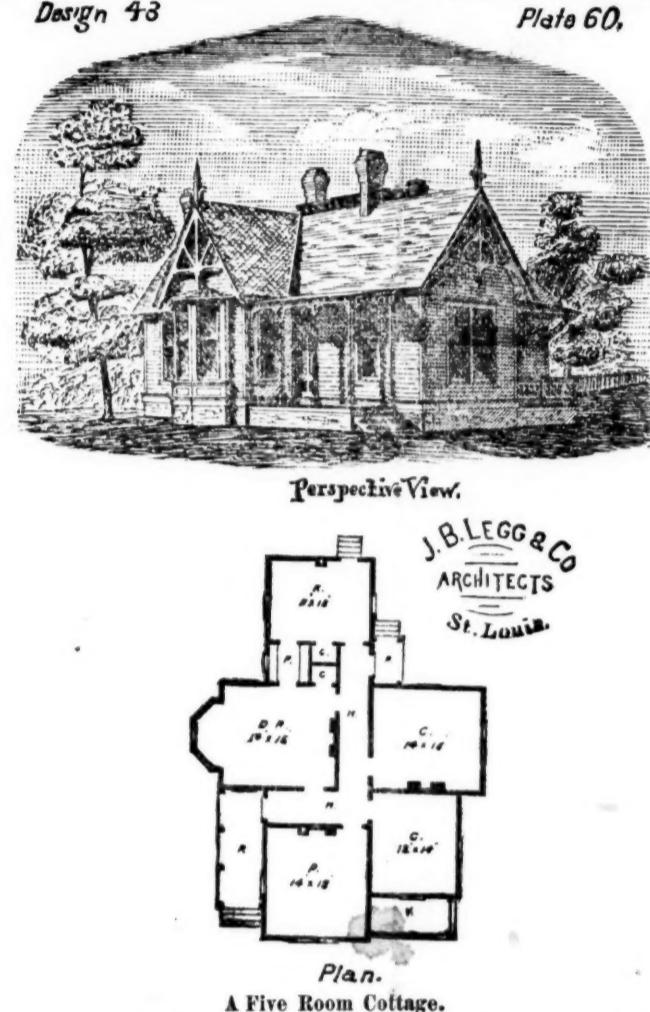
The following bill has been introduced by Mr. Wray in the House of Representatives of the Missouri Legislature, and is now in the hands of the Committee on Manufactures, before which Mr. Hedges appeared and made a strong argument in behalf of the passage of the bill:

An act to establish a sugar manufactory on the Missouri Agricultural College farm.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section 1. In order to afford facilities to the Agricultural Department of the State University of Missouri for educating the students in the processes of making sugar out of the product known as sorghum, it is made the duty of the State Board of Agriculture to cause suitable works to be erected on the Agricultural College farm of the State University.

Sec. 2. The State Board of Agriculture, through its officers, shall select a suitable site for the sugar works, and submit plans and specifications, with bids for erecting the buildings and putting in



A Five Room Cottage.

We give in this design the floor plan and elevation in perspective of a neat little one-story five-room Gothic Cottage, built at Altus, Franklin County, Arkansas, for E. S. Whitmore, Esq. This building should stand a good distance from taller buildings, on a large lot with eastern or northern front, and, if occupying a corner lot in a village, should be on the southwest or northeast corner of the street, thus giving eastern or southern sun to the parlor or sitting room, dining-room and kitchen, which are the apartments of a building longest occupied by a family living in a small house. By referring to the floor plans, it is readily seen that the building is compact and economical in construction, and convenient and exclusive in arrangement, thus giving an entrance to each room from the halls, without any undue waste of space, and is supplied with fine light and ventilation through windows on two sides of all room, and opposite doors with

machinery, to the Governor and State Auditor, and when approved by them, the contracts shall be awarded for such buildings and machinery.

Sec. 3. The State Board of Agriculture shall have authority to appoint a competent person to superintend the erection of the buildings, at such salary as may be approved of by the Governor and State Auditor.

Sec. 4. When completed, the works shall be under the control and management of the State Board of Agriculture, and it shall be the duty of said board to publish with its annual report a full and detailed statement of the experiments with the various varieties of sugar canes.

Sec. 5. For the purpose of erecting the buildings and putting in the machinery referred to in this act, there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State treasury not otherwise appropriated, chargeable to the revenue fund, the sum \$15,550. No part of this sum is to be drawn from the State treasury except upon requisitions drawn by the president of the State Board of Agriculture and approved by the Governor and State Auditor.

Sec. 6. When completed, the works shall be under the control and management of the State Board of Agriculture, and it shall be the duty of said board to publish with its annual report a full and detailed statement of the experiments with the various varieties of sugar canes.

Sec. 7. At what stage of development should cane be harvested, and manner of doing it to secure the best and greatest amount of syrup and sugar?

8. Will it pay to strip cane?

9. When should cane be worked after harvesting, and the best method of keeping it from fermentation?

10. Best method of manufacture?

11. Can it be made profitable to raise cane for sugar or syrup—and the ordinary yield per acre?

12. Should we be dependent upon other states for sugar and syrup when it is demonstrated that we can produce a sufficient quantity for our own consumption?

13. On buildings mills evaporators and necessary fixtures to constitute the most practical manufactory?

14. What the prospects for a whole-sale market for the sale of syrup manufactured from sugar cane grown in our state &c.

All persons east, west, north and south who are interested in this growing enterprise in the north west, are cordially solicited to attend and aid in the discussion of the topics that may then and there be presented for the benefit of all concerned.

It was in the firm belief that through the mutual exchange of ideas regarding methods pertaining to the cultivation, growth and manufacture of cane into syrup and sugar that all interested in receiving a more or less extensive knowledge of just how to accomplish the work most successfully, that this association has been organized, and may the result of the coming meeting demonstrate that the intent and object shall have been fully realized. Let the cane growers and manufacturers far and near come out and let their light shine. The best of accommodation at the Bidwell House at reasonable rates.

O. P. Dow, President, Palmyra.

BRADSBURY & BROTHERS.

L. B. GREEN, Hebron, Secretary.

### Mississippi Valley Cane Growers' Association—Continued.

MORNING SESSION, DEC. 23, 1880.

Mr. Hedges said: We did not do ourselves justice yesterday in going on 'Change. I will suggest that we go on 'Change again to-day, and that each member take his sample with him. It is customary with merchants when they go on 'Change to carry their samples with them. You present the glittering, golden sugar, and, gentlemen, they will listen to you right away. So let us go and take our samples.

Mr. Stimpson moved that the convention adjourn sine die at 12 o'clock. Carried.

Mr. Hedges—We have an organ now—the Rural World. So if any of our committee's reports do not come in in time, they can be published.

Mr. Hedges wanted to know whether it were best to appoint a time for the next meeting or not.

Col. Colman thought that the matter had better be left to the executive committee, since to appoint a time now might conflict with other meetings.

Mr. Hedges thought that the next meeting had better be fixed at an earlier date, so as to give him more time to collect data for his book.

Mr. Allen thought the annual convention should be delayed so as to give other associations an opportunity of meeting and appointing delegates to this meeting.

Mr. Allen read the report on varieties of cane, which was adopted. It was as follows:

VARIETIES OF CANE.

The subject of the varieties of cane, to which your committee has been directed, beg leave to submit the following report on varieties which have come under our personal observation, and which we consider best adapted for syrup and sugar.

The Early Amber, which has now become generally known, and which, so far, has proved to be the earliest, is very valuable for its light colored syrup, rich in sugar, but has some objection as a general crop south of 40 parallel as it deteriorates rapidly after maturity.

Similar to the above is a variety called Early Hybrid, ripening about five to ten days later. It is a large cane and well adapted to poor soil, but on rich soil it is liable to lodge. It is rich in syrup and sugar. It is similar to the Amber.

Next in the order of ripening is what we in Kansas have christened the Kansas Orange. It has been grown in Johnson Co. for several years, and has proved itself superior to the Amber in point of yield and quality of syrup—200 gallons of syrup being a fair yield. It ripens about ten or twelve days later than the Amber, and produces one-third more seed. Stalks from 1 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, and from 7 to 9 feet high, and standing up well. The syrup is very bright and granulated freely. It is very similar in many respects to the Early Orange, differing principally in time of ripening, yield of seed and color of canes, canes are green, shading to purple.

Next in the order of ripening is the Early Orange, being from fifteen to twenty days later than the Amber, and yields from 50 to 75 per cent. more. Its sugar is superior, as the examples on exhibition prove, and the results more definite than any of the old varieties. Its yield of seed is comparatively small. Stalks are large and of a yellow color, and it stands up well.

This variety and its twin brother, the Kansas Orange, we cheerfully recommend for the main crop in the latitude of 40 and south, and for trial north of that.

From a report of Henry B. Richards, of Lagrange, Texas, we learn that the indications are that it will raton for two or three years, like the ribbon cane, which makes it very valuable in Texas.

For late cane, the Honduras fills the place. It will ripen in the latitude of St. Louis and south, but cannot ripen it north. It is a very large, productive cane, both in syrup and sugar.

Your committee would recommend that all cane should be planted early, and the season lengthened out by different varieties. With the above it may be prolonged from two to three months.

G. W. ALLEN, C. M. SCHWARTZ, C. P. HANGER.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The next report was from the committee on soils, fertilizers, &c. Mr. Price said that the committee asked for more time on account of the absence of Prof. Scoville.

Mr. Thompson suggested that the members try leached ashes on cane when they go home.

The committee on mills and evaporators reported that they were not ready to report.

The committee on fuel and furnaces reported through Mr. Rugg. He said if he had boilers well adapted for the purpose he could run both engines with bagasse. The throat of the main draft was near the vacuum. Between the two bridge walls the grates run clear through to the ground. He drew a blackboard diagram of the subject. The grates are four feet long. The smoke was consumed to a great extent and the gas entirely. Never was troubled with sparks flying from the chimneys.

The grate-bars were four inches apart, making it quite open, and it worked very well. The chimney was 24 feet high by 18 inches. The labor of firing with bagasse is one-half more than with wood. It was scattered and allowed to dry as much as possible.

The committee on steam-trains and fire-trains, through Mr. Leonard, reported that the committee had consulted only a few moments. The committee had concluded that for small works a fire-train could be started with about \$300 or \$400, while the steam-train would cost \$1,000 to \$1,500 to start.

They recommended that for small works and experiments a fire train was a very valuable thing. Afterwards they could, with

more experience, put in steam trains. A cord of wood was required to make 200 gallons of syrup, as has been stated by a member. He used a steam train that with a ton of coal, costing about \$2.70, they could make about 300 gallons of syrup. This was certainly more economical than the fire train.

Mr. Leonard gave a brief technical description of the steam train used by him, illustrated by a blackboard diagram.

[To be Continued.]

## Agricultural.

### Immigrants to Missouri not Ostracised.

COL. COLMAN: In the RURAL WORLD of a recent date I find a communication by Mr. Jacob Funk on the reason why emigrants pass through our State to the sandy deserts beyond, instead of settling in Missouri; and the reason given is, that northern people would be ostracised on account of their political opinions.

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I was educated in the north, and when I came here not only found myself at variance with the people politically, but also religiously, and as I did not pretend to hide my light under a bushel, I expected to be ostracised; but instead of this I have always been kindly and hospitably treated, and have found the citizens, with very few exceptions (and these few exceptions came from persons who pretended to belong to the educated or aristocratic class), willing to accord to me the same rights and privileges that they arrogated to themselves. In fact, I have said things in this portion of the State, in public, that being a stranger, I would not have said in thousands of northern communities with impunity.

I have visited several of the surrounding counties, and have always found the people kind and hospitable, and willing to help me whenever it was necessary. I can assure any northern man that if he comes here willing to work, and do his share to help to develop the resources of the country, he need have no fear on account of his political opinions.

A great deal of grumbling comes from persons who hold prominent positions at home, and are used to being looked up to as an authority on most subjects by their neighbors; in fact, consider them little gods. These are disappointed because they cannot take the same positions here that they held at home, and straightway imagine themselves ostracised. But northern people must remember that the people of Missouri, as well as of other States, have local gods of their own; and because a man has been looked up to by his neighbors at home, is no reason for him to expect to be looked up to and bowed down to here.

If Mr. Funk, or any one else, will come to southeast Missouri and investigate for himself, he will find this bugbear of social ostracism vanish like mist before the sun.

Lutesville, Mo. LOUIS DEHLIS.

### Illinois State Board of Agriculture.

The following are the officers for the present year:

## The Grange.

The Rural World welcomes to the Grange Department communications from Missouri and all parts of the Mississippi Valley from members of the order. Brief notes of what is going on in the order, or any matters pertaining to it will be cheerfully published.]

Address of S. C. Sturtevant,  
RETIRING MASTER OF THE HUDSON  
GRANGE, BATES COUNTY, MO., DE-  
LIVERED BEFORE THE GRANGE ON  
THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:—In retiring from the position of Master of this grange, it gives me pleasure to remember the fact that during the past two years' service, and also a previous year, I have never perceived in any member a single indication of dis-spect towards me or any of my official acts. On the contrary, the uniform kindness and courtesy which have marked the conduct of every brother and sister during this period has been such as to make my association with them a very pleasant thing to recall. For all this I offer you my thanks. If any one can recall any circumstance in which I have seemed lacking in courtesy or brotherly feeling, I ask you to consider it a misunderstanding, for I certainly never harbored any but the kindest feeling towards all. The friendships previously formed and here strengthened, and, also, those here commenced, are as highly valued as any I ever cherished, and I hope they may remain unbroken and unsullied until our work here is done and our spirits have returned to the bosom o

the infinite.

In reviewing our work as a local grange, during these years, the results may seem to outsiders to be moderate; yet we have learned many useful things, have enjoyed ourselves socially, have derived some financial benefit, and have had a view of greater possibilities, which, in the near future, may become actual facts. That our achievements have not been multiplied manifold is because the farming commun-ty, of which we form a part, are so persistently indifferent or blind to their best interests. They are slighting the best organized effort ever put forth for their benefit, and I believe the very best that will be offered to this generation. But when we go by our little home-circle we see that, in the aggregate, much has been accom-  
plished. The influence of the grange movement in the nation, upon such important questions as the means of transferring manufactured articles from the maker to the user, and of moving the productions of the farm to the consumer, have been such as to leave the mechanic and the farmer a greater compensation for their labor.

A consideration of this theme alone would give more than material for a lengthy address, but must now be dismissed with only this comment, "That the work already done in loosening the grasp of moneyed and railroad corpora-tions, in the opening on the mouth of the Mississippi river, and in the reduction of the per-cent-age paid to middle men, gives us reason to believe that this is the beginning of greater things yet to be accomplished by this organization for the benefit of ourselves and our children."

Another useful feature of the work of a grange is the facility it affords for a comparison and discussion of the different methods of farming, comprising a great variety of questions, such as the most profitable crops to produce, the best kind of soil for each, the time and manner of planting, the methods of cultivation and tilling, and methods of harvesting and marketing; also, as to what are the best breeds of different kinds of stock and how best to care for them, while the fruits, berries and flowers should not be omitted.

Another feature that deserves men-tion is the training of the farmer in the habit of expressing his thoughts. By this practice his ideas are greatly enlarged and improved. Great advan-tage may also be derived from the knowledge here gained, concerning the transacting of all business pertaining to our calling.

That feature of the grange that places the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters upon an equality in all respects, with the fathers, husbands, brothers and sons, proves that the organization is imbued with the spirit of the most highly refined and progressive ideas that mankind has ever developed and put in practice, and this causes the social feature of the order to be one of its greatest attractions.

The American farmer has been living too isolated and too steadily engaged at hard labor, while his wife and daughters have been too closely occupied at house-work, sewing, etc., until many of them have become re-cluses—like news rather than the sociable, cheerful joy-creating, joy-giv-ing creatures which the God of na-ture has fitted them to be.

The meetings of our order are calcu-lated to remedy this, to make us better acquainted with each other, to give us many happy hours, to beautify and enliven our otherwise monotonous lives. It is a truism that philosophers and teachers in all ages of the world have expressed in a variety of forms: "That contentment is a chief ingredient of happiness," and our manual and literary teachers us such views of our occupation as have a tendency to make us contented therewith—free from all foolish ambitions and at tempts to venture into unknown and hazardous enterprises not connected with our calling. Another truism that should have been first referred to, is that "the pursuit of happiness in some form is the business of mankind," and in no other way is a purer and higher degree of happiness attained than in the well-ordered family—in a home where intelligence, true politeness and good will reigns in the hearts of all; and such homes it is the mission of our order to aid in establishing all over our land, and place them upon a perma-

nent foundation. The heart of every intelligent parent will bear me out in the assertion that no other way can that work be accomplished but in the best development of our children, physically, mentally, morally and reli-gionously. Our grange manual and literature abound with suggestions upon these important themes, to which I now ask your attention. To render the best physical development possible, it is absolutely necessary to pos-sess a knowledge of the structure of the body, of its frame-work of bones, of its tissues, of its vital organs, its nerves and muscles, the wonderful workings of the heart, lungs, digestive organs, etc. The God of nature has bestowed upon the soul such a wonderful house to live in, and, upon proper care of which so much depends, that for us to remain ignorant concerning it when the means of knowledge are within our reach, is criminal recklessness, and if, owing to the defects in our early education, we have not a good degree of information upon these things, let us see to it that our chil-dren shall not be subject to the same disadvantage when they shall have families of their own; but by a study of physiology they may understand the laws of health, and live accordingly. Were the degree of knowledge that is now easily attainable upon this subject put into practice, the majority of the sicknesses in the world would disappear, and death among the young and middle-aged people be much less frequent.

I once saw a statement of the fact that only one-half of the children born live to the age of five years, and it was remarked that if any such fatality existed among the young cattle, sheep or swine, no pains would be spared to discover the cause and apply a remedy. But how many parents seem to have no proper appreciation of the value of pure air, cleanliness, suitable clothing and proper food; and when, on account of their own ignorance, disease attacks their offspring, they commence to pour down their throats, drugs and patent medicines of the composition and effects of which they are uninformed. But because they are for sale in the market and recommended by those who live by their sale, they will buy and use them. And when broken-hearted they follow their dear ones to the grave, they attempt to solace themselves by thinking they have done what they could; that it was God's will and they must submit. For shame, to attempt to charge the Deity with the results of their own short-comings.

With regard to the mental development of the young, I take it for granted that every member of our order believes that every child should have a common school education. But how often in this meagre and inefficient knowledge that all cannot take a college course; but every child of average capacity can, in two or three years of study (after having acquired a fair knowledge of reading, writing, arithmetic and geography), acquire a vast fund of useful information. A knowl-edge of civil government is necessary for the individual who is to be a citizen of a republic. A knowledge of natural philosophy makes us familiar with the laws that govern inanimate matter. Chemistry teaches us the composition of the soil we till, of the food we eat, and the air we breath. Botany classifies and describes the vegetable world in its profusion and beauty. Natural history treats of beasts, birds and insects. Astronomy reveals to us many wonderful and interesting facts concerning the heavenly bodies that are continually before our sight. If the simple elements of these sciences are mastered in youth, the mind will be able to comprehend the minutiae of the various subjects, which can be ac-  
quired by reading at leisure times through the whole after life. One who has some knowledge of what surrounds him has always something useful to occupy his thoughts, and lives in a different and much higher sphere than the growing and ignorant.

Concerning development morally the oft quoted and justly honored "Golden Rule" is one to be taught concerning our treatment of others. But let us be-  
ware of the idea that that rule contains the whole substance of morality. There are incidents continually occurring in our lives where we cannot see that our action visibly affects any one, but which are building up for us a character and reputation in society, that shall have a favorable or unfavorable influence on the morals and well-being of the community. None of us are so obscure or so humble as to be justified in supposing that we have no influence.

Let us then each be determined for ourselves, and teach our children also to cultivate an enlightened judgment and a pure conscience, that we may do our full share towards bringing about that happy state of society, when all mankind will be members of one grand universal brotherhood of purity, contentment and peace. Mental de-  
velopment as already described, and correct religious sentiment, must ever be regarded as the great safeguards of morality and virtue.

One other theme, "the proper development of religious thought, feeling and aspirations," yet remains to be considered; and in this connection I shall strictly obey the precepts of the grange and not approach debatable ground, but will consider what must be the essential elements of the prin-ciples we must teach. I have sufficient faith in phrenology to believe that mental characteristics depend in some degree upon the formation of the cham bers of the brain, but that their development depends largely on the example and precepts of parents and early teachers, and other associations of childhood. We should, therefore, when we have in our keeping this suscep-tible instrument, "the brain"—thin blank, white sheet of paper—be careful to appreciate the responsibility we are assuming when we presume to write upon it theories and principles, which shall influence not only the one individual but others within the range of his influence, and they again influ-  
ence others, thus forming an ever-widening circle of power that shall affect humanity for a longer period than the finite mind can grasp. The ele-  
ments of these teachings must be such that they shall most fully de-  
velop those traits of character that are most desirable, such as industry, temperance, charity, love and good will, and also tend to bring under the

control of the will the baser inclinations, and also to insure the guidance of the will by an enlightened judgment. But, in the choice of these prin-ciples, let us be careful to bring them under the closest possible scrutiny, and be sure to employ every means of obtaining correct information of their tendencies and results. Let us not fall into a mistake, similar to the one here-referred to, of purchasing and adopt-ing whatever is put up ready labeled and for sale in the market, theories and principles, solely upon the recom-mendation of those who make their living by elaborating and selling them. But let us adopt those that experience and positive proof combine to recom-mend to our favor. But the one es-sential element of religious principle that overshadows all others in impor-tance is, that it must rest upon the basis of eternal truth. However de-sirable it may seem in other particu-lars, yet if it is not fully up to this standard, we should reject it totally. The home where these suggestions are properly carried out, cannot fail to be a happy one, and if a farmer's family will furnish the best grange material, to be found.

I have dwelt longer on these latter themes, because it is on these I have spent the most time in study and reflection, and upon which I most ardently desire the best light. And now having referred to some of the advantages to be gained by carrying out grange principles, I will remark that the contemplation of them has given me greater faith in their utility and greater expectations of what they may yet accomplish. It gives me pleasure to yield the chair to our worthy brother, the master elect, and ask the grange for him what I doubt will be fully and freely accorded, namely: The same degree of support, courtesy and respect that has been accorded to me.

Hudson, Mo., January 15.

## Shall True Interests be Longer Ignored?

The farmers of this country constitute over 40 per cent of the entire population and accordingly hold decidedly the balance of power. Do they know it? If so, why do they not use it? These are questions often asked, and as often unanswered. A Sampson, but alas shorn of its locks, American agriculture was for the quarter century preceding the organization of the order of Patrons of Husbandry the easy prey of its ferocious enemies. With the coming of this organization came hope, and gradually limited relief. Its capabili-ties were great, and casual ob-servers would have judged that every farmer would be found within its gates fully appreciative of its great blessings and benefits. Statistics show that farmers are much divided as to what are their true interests, and that the majority of them are yet to be drawn to this order, which is doing so much for them and humanity. What is the remedy, and how are these myriads of farmers to be convinced and induced to join hands with us in our efforts to secure the just claims of agri-culturists? Surely not by remaining at home and wondering why a farmer can refuse his support; not by con-  
sider and ill-feeling toward those who differ from us can we expect to win them. We suggest that as a grand brotherhood of farmers, knowing by experience the importance of the organization and willing to labor and make sacrifices in its behalf, that every present member, male and female, constitute themselves a "Visiting Committee" to call upon and discuss with their non-Patron neighbors the true ob-  
jects of the order and try to remove all stumbling blocks from their way. Do this with energy and charity, and this present season will witness an addition to our membership that the most sanguine never imagined. To those of our readers who are not members of our order, but have identical interests with it, we appeal to their judgment and reason and urge an investigation, conducted with a sincere desire to reach the right. Examine the condition of your brother farmer who is a "Granger" and see if he is not happier and better off, socially, intellectually, and financially, than when he was like you—a non-believer—and after gaining the desired information decide as to whether your true interests are to be no longer ignored, remembering that not only your own happiness and welfare will be affected by it, but those of your wife and little ones.—Grange Bulletin.

The Grange not Sectional.

The Grange is a national institution. Its spirits and purposes are alike friendly to every section of the whole country. It seeks to build up no section, class, or interest to the exclusion or injury of another, but proposes to benefit the whole country. In doing this it aims in the right direction in at-tempting to foster and build up the agricultural interests of the country, for upon this all permanent prosperity rests. There is no well regulated Grange in the United States, that would refuse to fraternize with a pa-tron on account of sectional or politi-cal differences, and however strong and marked these differences might be, they can unite in the laudable objects of the Order, and thus is cultivated a spirit of fraternity and harmony, that greatly softens the bitterness of politi-cal feelings and lays the foundation of a national peace and union that cannot fail to promote the public weal. The teachings of the Grange are uniform wherever the Order exists, and the less-sons taught and the ideas gleaned relate in a high degree to facts bearing on our own profession. If in gathering these it is discovered that many cus-toms, usages and laws are unfriendly to agriculture, and prevent an equal and just distribution of the profits of labor, while the burdens of government, without an adequate share of its bene-fits fall upon the productive industries of the country, is it strange or is it wrong that a cry should go up for re-form, and a fair share of public patron-age? These ideas and facts thus gathered from the Grange are held in common by the Order everywhere, and

give back a responsive and stimulat-ing sound, which reverberates and re-verberates over the whole country. It may be weak and unheeded at first, but like echoes it will roll back and forth until the entire land is startled by the sound. In the meantime the masses are becoming better informed, more liberal and comprehensive in their views, better disciplined in their thought and action, and rapidly ac-quiring a full and perfect knowledge of the responsibilities of citizenship, so that on the forum, they may be guided by the true spirit of patriotism. That a radical reform is needed in this govern-ment is too evident to be denied; that it will take place through the power of the ballot box is quite certain; and that such desirable results when once achieved will be mainly accorded to the influence the \$ range movement exerted in moulding and shaping opin-ion, is too probable to admit of a doubt.

—Texas Farmer.

## Grange Convention.

It is hereby recommended by the La-fayette county grange that the citizens of Washington, Davis, Middletown, Freedom and Sni-a-Bar townships hold a mass convention in their respective townships on Saturday, January 29th, to elect delegates to a convention to be held in Mayview, Saturday, February 5th, to take into consideration the mat-ter of township indebtedness. The township meetings to be held as follows: Middleton, at Waverly; Freedom, at Avillville; Davis, at Higginsville, Washington, at Centerview, all at 2 o'clock, p. m. The convention at Mayview to meet at 11 o'clock, a. m.

All county papers requested to pub-lish.

J. T. FERGUSON, Secretary.

## GENERAL.

## PURCHASING AGENCY

## DEPARTMENT.

A. J. CHILD, - - - - AGENT.

## The Mishawaka Farm Wagon.

We have the sole agency for the above cele-brated farm wagon. It is made from thoroughly seasoned Indiana timber, elaborately ironed and painted, and warranted for durability and easy running qualities. We do not hesitate in saying that it is fully equal to, if not the very best wagon in use. We offer this wagon, either wide or narrow track, with double bed, patent brak and spring seat, at the following prices, delivered on the cars in St. Louis, Mo.:

2 1/2-inch Thimble Skins, complete.....\$26

3-inch " " " .....\$28

3 1/2-inch " " " .....\$30

3 1/2-inch " " " .....\$32

Send for card giving full description.

We have received notice from the Mishawaka Wagon Factory that on and after the 10th of February, they will advance the prices on their wagons. They claim that in meeting our requirements in the grade and finish of their wagons, they are losing money on every one sold, and that dealers in Missouri are ready to buy all they make at higher prices. All of which we believe to be true; and even at the probable advance of \$3, they will still be the cheapest first-class wagon offered in the market. We shall continue to receive orders for the wagons up to the 10th of February at the above prices.

BARBED FENCE WIRE.

The barbed fence wire manufacturer advanced their prices on the 25th to the following:

Scutt's patent twisted, painted wire—car loads—per lb, 8c.

Scutt's patent twisted, painted wire—5 tons—per lb, 8 1/4c.

Scutt's patent twisted, painted wire—small lot—per lb, 8 3/4c.

Scutt's patent galvanized wire, 1c per lb higher.

It looks very much as if the wire folks have everything their own way at present.

PLOW HARNESS.

A great many farmers are averse to using their good wagon harness to plow, cultivate or harrow ground with. To meet the demand which comes to us every spring for plow harness we have made arrangements for the same to be put up as described be-low. This is intended for plows, &c., only, and not for wagon harness, but, by the addition of breast-straps and belly-bands, could be used with wagons, and we have seen many a worse one. The harness will consist of:

Two 7-8 inch stage bridles.

One pair lines, 15 feet by 3 1/4 inch.

Two duck collars.

Two pair 2 loop hook hames.

Two pair 5 1/2-2 feet chains.

Two 8-inch leather back-bands with hooks.

Buckle Hame straps.

They will be furnished for the sum of \$8.50.

If wanted with cotton back-bands, \$8.00.

If wanted with leather collars and leather back-bands, \$9.75.

A. J. CHILD,

209 Market Street,

ST. LOUIS, MO.

## Fruit FOR THE Farmer

Colman's St. Louis Nursery, on the Olive Street Road, five miles west of St. Louis Court House, has the following offer to those who want fruit for their families, every day of the year. The kinds here enumerated have been tried in this section and succeed well:

## STRAWBERRIES.

CAPT. JACK.—A free grower and heavy producer of berries that will ship a long distance. \$1.00 per 100.

CUMBERLAND TRIUMPH.—A triumph in strawberries. Plant a strong, strong grower, very productive of the most beautiful berries of large size and fine flavor. \$1.00 per dozen.

SETH BOYD NO. 30.—An excellent berry of good quality; plant vigorous and productive. \$1.00 per dozen.

WILSON'S ALBANY.—Everywhere well-known as one of the best market varieties. \$1.00 per 100.

SHARPLESS.—A new variety; berry of the largest size and highest quality; plant vigorous and productive. 50 cents per dozen, \$1.00 per 100.

RASPBERRIES.

TURNER.—A very productive, hardy, red variety, excellent for market or family purposes. \$1.00 per dozen.

THWAK.—Berry very firm—one of the best red varieties for shipping to a distant market. Hardy, vigorous and productive. \$1.00 per dozen.

ECKER.—A vigorous, productive, hardy, red variety, imported from England seven years ago by Mr. Ecker. Has borne heavy, annual crops without protection ever since. A fine family and market variety. \$1.50 per dozen.

CURRENTS.

TURNER.—A very productive, hardy, red variety, excellent for market or family purposes. \$1.00 per dozen.

HOUGHTON SEEDLING GOOSERERRY.—The best variety for either market or family purposes. \$1.00 per dozen.

GRAPE VINES such as Concord, Hart-ford,

**Horticultural.**

Edited by Geo. Husmann, Professor of Pomology and Forestry, Columbia, Mo. All communications for this department should be addressed to him as above.

**ORCHARDS.**

Report of Maj. Z. S. Ragan for the year 1880, read before the Missouri Valley Horticultural Society.

The winter of 1879-80 was a very mild and pleasant one, and fruit buds nearly entirely passed through safely, so that all our orchards appeared as one gorgeous bouquet of blossoms. The spring also was favorable, so as to admit a full set of fruit on nearly all varieties and trees that were of suitable age to bear, and many kinds set an over-crop.

Aside from a good crop of small fruits, cherries were very fine and the crop very abundant. May Duke bore a better crop than usual, and were marketed the last of June. Early May followed, and were very abundant, and were the principal or leading cherries for our market. Yet, many other kinds, in greater or less quantities, found their way into our markets. It may not be out of place here to state that during the main ripening season the notion prevailed that, inasmuch as there was a very large crop, most of those wishing to supply themselves would get them at still lower prices, before they were aware of it was too late to buy even at advanced prices. It is to be regretted that this is too often the case with most of our fruits, greatly to the disadvantage of both producer and consumer. It may be hard to correct this evil, unless our people are educated in the school of ice men, who make it a rule to avail themselves of the first ice that is formed, lest that may be their last opportunity.

Before cherries were gone our new early peaches began to ripen, such as Amsden, Alexander, Early Beatrice, Early Louise, Early Rivers and Wyandotte Chief. These all seem to have descended from Hale's Early, and coming in much earlier than their parent, and also in advance of our former kinds of cultivated peaches, may be considered a very valuable acquisition to our list of market fruits. Following these, we have such as Foster, Golden Empire, Yellow Frees (doubtless descended from Early Crawford) and Chinese Cling. The latter is a white clingstone peach, which, if its first specimens are a sample, bids fair to be very valuable. Time and space will forbid mention of the many popular common kinds running through the usual season; but, in concluding remarks on this, the most popular of all fruits, cannot do justice without also calling attention to some of the new late varieties that fruited with us the past season, to-wit: Keyport White, October Beauty, Salway and quite a number originating from seeds of Heath Cling, some of which are larger and others later. I cannot attempt to describe all of these, but will name one that, from its late ripening, must claim a place in our list of fine peaches, viz: Aikin's November. It is a white freestone, with a faint blush; a shade smaller than its parent, Heath Cling; has white, firm flesh, with small seed, without any gum and fair to the seed, and will be fine for canning, preserving and pickling, and may be held for some weeks after the peach season.

I have also two new seedlings, originated from seeds of Smock's Free—one a cling and the other a free—both large and good and coming a few days after the parent and a few days in advance of Salway.

If I have trespassed upon the time of the meeting with the peach, I may claim indulgence from the fact that our people are either educated or naturally take to peaches, as the duck does to water. Everybody seem to eat peaches! They commence with the earliest ripening to eat on throughout the season with that avidity that would indicate that they expected none the next year.

Along with our peaches, the past season, we had one of the best crops of pears that has been grown for many years, if ever before, in this country. Yet, from the great amount of fruits of all kinds pressed upon the market, that prince of all delicacies did not command so good a price as heretofore; yet, when peaches fail, they will come to the front again.

It is to be regretted that we are not exempt from that dreaded malady, the blight, which made its inroads in many of the finest orchards the past season.

More plums made their appearance than common, but the bulk of them were Wild Goose and Miner.

The apple crop was simply immense, and from the superabundance throughout the land, prices, of course, ruled low, and for the want of a better market, too many of our people suffered their fruit to go to waste, thinking it would not pay. A great mistake indeed, as present prices now indicate. The past season has taught a lesson that all who grow fruit should profit by.

If we are correct in our observations, it has been those persons who have industriously and closely followed up and husbanded and accepted the daily market, that good or bad, that have obtained remuneration for their fruits; while, on the other hand, the sore-heads and growlers, "that the market is overdone and that fruit will not pay," etc., have nothing to show for their crop. May they learn wisdom by reading horticultural papers and attending horticultural societies.

Should our country be favored with such abundant crops in future, it will be wisdom to strive to be prepared beforehand for drying the perishable and storing the keeping kinds for winter and spring market. It is a lasting shame that, with our immense crop of apples, our markets are so soon supplied by apples imported from other States, while ours are sold at from 20 to 30¢ per bushel; and now, within so short a time, they are worth three times that money. Is it not time that our people were learning economy in husbanding their products?

The present winter, thus far, has been one of great severity. October brought with it a very cold snap, and November was unusually cold—so much so as to block up the Missouri river with ice, and the mercury ranged in different parts of the State from 4 to 10 degrees below zero. December followed with 10 to 20 degrees, and January has already put it to 15 degrees below zero, with but little else than cold weather since winter set in. Enough is already known of the effects of the severity of the winter upon the coming fruit to show that peach and apricot buds are all killed, and many of the tender varieties of cherries are more or less damaged. We may apprehend some damage among old peach trees, such as bore heavy crops of fruit. There is one thing, however, that will be in our favor; that is, the fall was dry and caused trees to wind up their growth and harden their wood, except late rains induced some trees to force out a bunch of leaves on their terminal buds, and some trees even bloomed. Yet another circumstance is unfavorable, i.e., the earth is exceedingly dry deep down, affecting our springs and wells. When this is the case, severe and protracted cold has set hard with fruit trees and plants, especially when the ground is exposed, without any mulching or protection.

Where I have been traveling through Illinois and Indiana, for the past three weeks, so far as I examined young peach, quince and Heart cherry trees in the nursery were killed, and the bark on older trees more or less colored. The cold there was several degrees colder than here, and they had from six to ten inches of snow. Whether the snow was in their favor or not, is a question that I am unable to solve.

From what examination I have been able to make since my return, I do not find the wood on my young peach trees damaged, and take it for granted, if they are not injured, that other trees may escape serious damage.

**Seasonable Hints.**

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: Now that the days are beginning to lengthen and the sun to draw nearer and nearer to us, we can see our plants throw off their lethargy—many of them putting forth new leaves and some expanding their blossoms. But while all these things are going on to cheer the heart of the flower-lover, now is the time when his eyes and hands must be quick to detect and destroy the various parasites which infest flower plants, robbing them of their sap and soon causing them to appear anything else but things of beauty. In warm rooms the green fly is almost sure to make its unwelcome appearance, but it can be exterminated by tobacco smoke. The red spider, too, will make its presence known by the brown, shriveled appearance of the leaves, and unless the air of the plant room is kept moist by evaporating water on the stove, will gain a stronghold. Mealy bugs will be found in the axils of the leaves of fuchsias, &c., and must be destroyed by hand-picking.

Air should be given on all pleasant days for at least a couple of hours, taking care, however, that the draft blows over the plants instead of on them. This makes the plants grow dwarf and compact, besides hardening the wood. I don't know why it should be so, nevertheless I find in the course of my visiting around that most people allow their plants to run long, gaunt, leafless stems, and wonder what can be the matter, they don't get any flowers. They seem to have a horror of using the knife upon their plants, and yet, if they could see it in that light, the potted plants will really grow better for having their entire crop.

Bluffton, Mo.

season wishes to be able to supply all demands. She asks how she could pay rent, clothe and feed seven children, ten shillings a day, without her flowers, and then says: "Please tell me the names of a few of the best flowering annuals."

The case before us has a similar parallel in the person of an estimable New England lady, who, being left a widow, was at an utter loss to provide for herself and child. While bemoaning her helplessness, a friend came in to procure a few flowers from her garden, and after obtaining them, tendered a dollar in payment. The widow could not believe flowers had such a pecuniary value, but was ultimately made to see that the greenhouse man might have asked twice as much for the same amount of flowers. That gave her an idea; so she read up all the floral literature she could procure, and succeeded so well in the growing and sale of annuals, that she determined to build a greenhouse with the money received from the insurance on her late husband's life. She knew nothing of the business, but found those who were willing to assist her; and it was not long until, instead of one house, she had seven greenhouses, each 100 feet in length.

But this is not telling the annuals best suited for cutting for bouquets. Will not attempt to name all that are worthy in this letter. In a future communication will tell how to raise them, but she or any one else may select twelve kinds of seed from those we shall name, and will send them for 25¢. At the rate here given, it will barely pay the time to put them up and the material, but we want everybody to grow some flowers.

We name among others for bouquet making, asters, pansies, phlox, everlasting, sweet peas, ageratum, bartonia, scabiosa, alyssum, mignonette, asperula, phacelia and nemophila. This selection gives a wide range of colors, and several of the varieties named have fragrant flowers.

R. RENNIE.

Ainsworth, Iowa.

**Birds in the Orchard or Nursery.**

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: Think we sent you this recipe last year, but it is very likely to be forgotten by many who read it then, while others may know nothing of it; besides, the subject needs calling attention to at this time. As far as we know, it is original with us, and we have found it perfectly reliable, cheap and easily applied.

Cut an apple into 16 or 24 pieces; cut each one of these pieces nearly in two, open it and dip the point of the knife into strychnine, so as to get from one-third to one-half the size of a wheat grain; wipe this into the opening, close it, drive a common pin through it; drive these pins lightly into the trees at a convenient height for Mr. Rabbit, and if he ever comes within sight or smelling distance of it once, he will never trouble you again.

CHAS. PATTERSON.

Kirkville, Mo.

**Peaches for 1881.**

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: If there will be any of the above fruit next season, it will be more than can be expected. Here at Bluffton, the mercury was down to 26 degrees below zero, and for nights under 10 degrees below zero.

Not only is the fruit gone for the coming season, but there are some fears that trees of any considerable age will be damaged so as to be of little value hereafter. It will be well for those who have seed saved to husband them well, for there will be none gathered next fall. We were fortunate enough to secure several bushels for our own use.

Will some of our sweet potato men tell us how they have gone through the severe weather? Some report that their entire crop.

S. MILLER.

Bluffton, Mo.

**Fruit in Christian County, Mo., for 1881.**

HORT. EDITOR: Our fruit for next season, so far as peaches and most small fruits are concerned, is already disposed of. On four separate occasions this season has the thermometer been from 20 to 28 degrees below zero. Think a great many of the fruit trees are killed outright or so badly injured that their usefulness is a thing of the past; having been taxed to their utmost to mature the very heavy crop of the summer, they were in poor condition to stand the very severe freeze of November—24 degrees below zero. The ground here has been covered with snow for more than eight weeks, and it shows no signs of giving way yet. During the night of the 18th inst. it commenced sleeting, and continued until 12 m. yesterday, when it terminated in a light snow squall.

We cut from a post oak a small limb that weighed 5½ pounds; when the ice was knocked off, there was half a pound of limb left. So, you see, there were five pounds of ice to half a pound of timber; and this immense weight of ice has broken much timber and not a few fruit and ornamental trees.

We are looking forward with much interest for the further fruiting of the Keltner peach, that has so far given such fair promise as an early peach; but we will be compelled to wait until Boreas is in a more accommodating mood, so as not to nip our hopes in the bud.

Mr. Editor, if it would be allowed, would say to the tree planter to look a "leettle out," for if the nursery stock of the east and north has been injured by the severe cold, Missouri will be literally overrun with agents, willing to dispose of it to the gullible at about double the price asked at our own nurseries for the same stock, true to name.

H. F. DAVIS.

Ozark, Christian Co., Mo.

We are really sorry to hear such discouraging reports from Christian country. Here, the thermometer has not been below 22 degrees, nearly all dry cold, and although the peach buds and those of some of the most tender grapes are killed, and Kittatinny blackberries partially injured, the other fruits are yet in very fair condition. Apple, pear, cherry, Turner and Thwack raspberries and Western Triumph blackberries all right yet, as well as all the harder grapes. Strawberries are under the snow, and will of course be all right.

A letter received a few days since from an earnest, working woman, leads us to ask others to follow her example, and in time become successful florists. She says she grows flowers because she loves them, but is too poor to buy choice kinds. She found a market last year for all she could raise, and this

readers, what the effects of the cold weather have been in their section. Here, though very cold, it has been steady, no thawing and sudden freezing, and although the ground has been closed up for more than two months, we do not apprehend as much damage as if the weather had changed frequently, from cold to warm. Water is very scarce, and nearly all the cisterns are empty.

We would advise peach growers to shorten in their trees severely, leaving only stumps of the main limbs, of from two to four feet long. The peach tree, as we know from experience, has a tenacity of life which is truly wonderful, and trees which looked entirely brown and dead, have recovered again under this treatment, put out vigorous shoots and produced good fruit for a number of years.

Your caution against irresponsible tree peddlers is a good and timely one, and should be borne in mind by the planting public. Buy from none but reliable establishments, who will send sound trees, or none.

HORT. EDITOR.

Cumberland Triumph Strawberry. COL. COLMAN: Although there are many contributions sent to your valuable paper about strawberries, their culture, merits and failings of the old, as well as the new—still, if you have a little corner to spare in the RURAL, we would like to put in a good word or two for the above variety, which we have had in cultivation for four years.

It is a very strong, upright, robust grower, with very large foliage, which protects the fruit against the hot sun; it has also remarkably strong fruit stalks, that hold the fine large, berries all up from the ground—a very great advantage to the pickers. The fruit is of the largest size, to the last; bright scarlet in color; looks well on the market stands; fills the boxes quick; is of good quality and very productive; it blooms rather late, thereby escaping late cold snaps. Taking everything into consideration, we know of no better variety, either for home use or market.

H. S.

**Wyandotte Chief Peach.**

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: Would answer your correspondent who inquires about Wyandotte Chief. Have had something to do with giving it notoriety. Two years ago we visited the original tree in Wyandotte city, on the 10th of June, and found the tree loaded with luscious fruit, some of which measured 8½ inches. Secured some buds, and have been propagating it considerably.

Cut an apple into 16 or 24 pieces; cut each one of these pieces nearly in two, open it and dip the point of the knife into strychnine, so as to get from one-third to one-half the size of a wheat grain; wipe this into the opening, close it, drive a common pin through it; drive these pins lightly into the trees at a convenient height for Mr. Rabbit, and if he ever comes within sight or smelling distance of it once, he will never trouble you again.

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land in this part of the country takes enough interest in fruit growing to entice nearly all kinds that will succeed here; indeed, their eagerness for fruit has caused many to be woefully swindled by the brazen-faced and oily-tongued tree peddler; yet every one of the said peddlers reap a rich harvest, showing that the fools are not now, nor ever will be, all dead.

Mr. Helt keeps all the newest and best varieties for this latitude, at low prices, while the peddlers do a large business at from 15 to 50¢ each for the same varieties, and generally poorer trees.

E. S. KETCHUM.

Afton, Ia., Jan. 22.

**Winter Protection of Grape Vines.**

A correspondent writes to us for our views on wintering grape vines in an elevated region; whether laying them down, or leaving them exposed, with some protection around the roots would be the better way.

To this we can only reply that our experience leads us to prefer taking the vines down from the trellis and laying them upon the ground, and, if it be practicable, it is very advantageous to cover the vines with a few evergreen boughs. A variety of grape that will not pass the winter safely in this way had better be dug up, and a more hardy kind put in its place. There are a number of hardy vines now in cultivation which

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR.  
COLMAN'S  
RURAL WORLD.  
BY NORMAN J. COLMAN.

\$1 PER YEAR.

A FREE COPY FOR A CLUB OF TEN.

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Contributions solicited for every department.

Entered at the post office at St. Louis and submitted for transportation through the mail at second-class rates.

The RURAL WORLD is increasing its circulation most satisfactorily. The reduction of its terms to only \$1 per annum has given an impetus to its circulation we did not anticipate.

It is now the official paper of:

The Missouri State Grange.

The Missouri State Horticultural Society.

The Missouri Valley Horticultural Society.

The Mississippi Valley Horticultural Society.

The Mississippi Valley Cane Growers' Association.

The Minnesota State Amber Cane Growers' Association.

The Illinois State Cane Growers' Association.

It is always ready to lend a helping hand to the farmer in any and every branch of industry. Its highest merit is that it is strictly an agricultural paper, entirely eschewing politics, leaving that field to political papers.

We thank our kind friends all over the country for the good work they are doing in increasing the number of readers of this paper. We think no farmer can read it one year without feeling that no dollar he has expended during the year has brought better returns.

Mr. A. N. Chevron, of St. Clair Co., Ill., writes us: "The wheat in this part of the country looks badly injured. I should think one-half of it is killed."

Our contributors will accept our sincere thanks for their kind favors. At this season of the year they have leisure to put their thoughts in writing, and we are glad they are doing it. If their favors do not appear in print, they are none the less appreciated. In due time they will be forthcoming. We have a large number of valuable articles on hand, and want more of them. All will appear sooner or later.

Now, friends, let us hear about the premiums for the annual free premium drawing, where each subscriber to the RURAL WORLD has one chance. Any person having anything to offer will please notify us at once what it is, and it will immediately appear in the premium list. It answers for a good advertisement of what is offered, as the name, postoffice address and article given will stand in the premium list till the 1st of April.

One of the most gigantic enterprises of modern times is that just announced by the Continental Railway Co., an association of eastern capitalists. They claim that they have made all arrangements for the building of a double track from New York to Omaha, by way of Chicago. The capital (\$100,000,000) they claim is already assured to build and equip the road throughout, and 30,000 laborers will be put to work at once at different points on the road. The managers state that they can conduct the business of the road profitably and at considerable reduction in the prevailing rates between the east and the west.

A review of the business failures in the United States during 1880 tells the story of good or bad times, perhaps, as plainly as can be told through any other source. Judging from the records, the Pacific States were worst off and the western States the most prosperous, while the southern States fared much better than their neighbors in the east. The figures are as follows: Pacific States, 1 firm in 72 failed; eastern, 1 in 118; middle, 1 in 161; southern, 1 in 131; western, 1 in 235; Canada, 1 in 63 failed. These figures show a marked decline in failures, in comparison with the records of preceding years, both in numbers and amount of capital involved. It must be admitted that last year was a remarkably prosperous one, as shown in the increased wealth and the great activity in public improvements and private enterprises. Prosperity was, indeed, widespread and gratifying. The industries prominent among them railroad building, that had so long languished—were brought to life, and gave employment to idle capital and idle labor. All the railroads in the country were crowded with business, and handsome dividends accrued to the stockholders. Stocks of every description appeared to steadily grow more valuable, and capital, no longer timid, came to the relief of every legitimate enterprise. The country has been blessed with magnificent harvests, and afforded and gave rise to the high tide of prosperity that spread over the land.

Sugar Works at the Agricultural College

A bill is before the Missouri Legislature for the establishment of a sugar works on the Agricultural College farm at Columbia, asking for an appropriation of \$15,000. In our judgment the bill is a wise one and ought to pass.

The people of Missouri are paying out annually about eight millions of dollars for sugar. The most of this large sum goes to foreign nations. Sorghum is perfectly at home in Missouri. Numerous tests of the juice by scientific experts have proven that the juice of this northern cane is as rich in crystallizable sugar as is the juice of the southern cane. The sugar is there, and farmers are getting it, more or less, wherever the juice is reduced to syrup. We saw one farmer—John F. Porter, of Red Wing, Minn.—roll in five barrels of beautiful sugar in the hall of the Minnesota Amber Cane Growers' Association, of his own manufacture, who one year ago knew nothing about sorgo. And so it goes; this man makes it, that man makes it, in large or small quantity. In our own State scores of farmers have made sugar, but just how they did it all of them could not tell. The trouble is, there are no experts to be obtained by the farmers who raise the cane. They want men who understand the business, and just as soon as they can get skilled men to run their works, the sugar industry will be put on a safe footing, and Missouri will make all her own syrup and sugar, and have it sent abroad as she now does her live stock, her wheat, corn, bacon, &c.

There is no school or factory where the sons of farmers, or the farmers themselves, can learn to manipulate the juice of the cane and make syrup and sugar from it. In view of the great importance of this industry to the State and nation; in view of the degree of success that has been already obtained by plain farmers, without any of the advantages of science, thereby showing that the cane contains sugar, and that they, in their simple way, are getting some of it; and in the further view that is impossible to obtain the requisite skill unless the State affords the means—it seems to us that the Legislature will not be doing its full duty in furthering the great material interests of the State, if it fails to pass this bill.

The State now affords means, by departments in the University, to make lawyers, and doctors, and teachers. Can it not as well lend its means and influence to aid in the development of one of the most prominent industries of the State and nation? The cost is a mere bagatelle to a State with a population of over two millions, and with the great wealth they possess. The cost to the largest tax-payer in the State would not be half of that of a cheap cigar.

The great Napoleon, when he learned that sugar could be produced from beets, offered large bounties to encourage the industry. The government actually paid several cents per pound for all sugar made from beets for many years, until an ample sugar production from this source was assured, and Napoleon exhibited his sagacity by giving this encouragement, and thus keeping the vast millions that would have to be paid to foreign powers, at home in his beloved France.

If Missouri can produce her own sugar—and she surely can, by giving some little encouragement to it—is it not better to keep the eight millions of dollars at home, that now go to foreign powers every year? This trifling sum of fifteen thousand dollars (and no more will ever be asked for, because it is sufficient for the purpose, for all time), what is it in comparison to the eight millions paid out by our people annually? Is any one so blind as not to see the wisdom of rendering this needed assistance? We have the Agricultural College and the Agricultural College lands, and by expending this sum, the lands can be utilized and made remunerative. It is the business of agricultural colleges to aid in the development of all branches of agriculture. Our Agricultural College has not the means to help the sugar industry without this small appropriation. Will it be given? We trust it may be.

In another column will be found an interesting article on this subject by Dr. E. F. Newberry, of the Illinois State Cane Growers' Association, which we hope will be read by all. This is an age of progress, but the means of progression for such great industries as the one under consideration should be afforded by the public at large, for the public in the end will reap the benefits.

The sum asked for is not a gratuity, but an investment of a permanent character, to render more useful and available the lands of the Agricultural College farm, as well as to make experts in a new industry.

There is also coupled with this sugar-making, a purpose of utilizing the offal of this crop; that is, the skinnings, seed, &c., together with the other products of the farm, in feeding and fattening stock in a more economical method, which is a matter of very great importance to Missouri farmers.

An investigation is now in progress under the direction of the directors of the St. Louis Merchants' Exchange, where the well-known ability and skill of Mr. Charles Belcher will be brought into requisition to ascertain whether the products of the cane will yield re-

munerative returns. This report will appear in a day or two.

No Back Numbers.

On account of the unprecedented increase in the circulation of the RURAL WORLD, the back numbers for the first month of the year—January—are entirely exhausted. The subscription of those remitting hereafter, whether old or new subscribers—must begin with February. We regret that we are unable to comply with the wishes of a large number of subscribers by sending them back numbers, but they should have sent their favors at an earlier date.

We are in receipt of a number of interesting articles from northern men, who reside in different portions of Missouri, confirming our editorial remarks in reply to an article written by Mr. Funk, of Iowa. That these persons, who have lived many years in this State, and whose political status differs from that of the dominant party in Missouri, are better judges of the sentiment in this State towards immigrants from the northern States than Mr. Funk, who is a non-resident, no reasonable man can doubt. These letters will appear from time to time, as the crowded state of our columns will permit.

An effort will be made in the Missouri Legislature to prohibit pool-selling at horse races. Now, it is not a pleasant foible in a son or an employee that he is fond of games of chance; but, to break down such propensity, moral force and suasion are the best weapons. Gambling is a vice which can be followed under very slight cover without fear of detection. As pool-selling is one of the most honest of the methods now in use, to stop it would probably be productive of more harm than good.

The game laws of this State are now in full operation regarding venison, quail and grouse. An unusual vigilance will be exercised by sportsmen all over the State to detect infringers, it would be well for every one to make a note on t.

News and Notes.

**Smallpox** is raging in New York city.

The new senator from Wisconsin is Philo E. Sawyer.

Sara Bernhardt's receipts in St. Louis were over \$21,000.

Pittsburg, Pa., has an agitation over a haunted house.

Dry goods houses burned in New York Jan. 27. Loss, \$600,000.

Clinton Co., Pa., has a tobacco crop valued at \$400,000 annually.

Quebec extorts a license fee of \$60 from American commercial travellers.

The Cuban tobacco crop will be large, but the product of an inferior quality.

Florence, the actor, modeled his "Judge Slocum" from Sawyer, the new Wisconsin senator.

Edward S. Paxton, of East Bradford, Chester county, Pa., shot two horned larks last week.

One-eighth and over of the fires in Philadelphia last year were caused by coal oil explosions.

Howell E. Jackson, Democrat, was chosen senator from Tennessee on the 30th ballot, Jan. 26th.

Philadelphia capitalists will invest in 12,000,000 acres of reclaimable Florida lands to raise sugar.

Mrs. Collier, of Petersburg, Va., had her dress ignited on the 26th ult., and was burned to death.

Mrs. W. G. Deitrick, of Wyoming, Pa., gave birth to three girls and a boy on the night of the 25th ult.

The Charlie Ross epidemic has broken out afresh, and he is being found in various parts of the country.

Seven prisoners at Burlington, Vt., dug a tunnel under the wall of the prison and escaped last week.

The sugar crop of the world last year was 3,422,988 tons. Of this 46 per cent. was the best root product.

A broken rail near Cincinnati threw a passenger coach down a bluff, and fatally injured a number of persons on the 25th ult.

The present system of internal revenue and custom taxation brings to the national treasury \$100,000,000 more than is required.

Mrs. Sally Hunter, the only surviving servant of George Washington's household, died in Westmoreland Co., Va., last week, aged 115.

Parnell and his co-defendants were acquitted at the Dublin trials. His friends welcomed him on the 25th ult. with a torch-light procession.

Smallpox, diphtheria and diseases which in summer would probably become Asiatic cholera are increasing materially Chicago's mortality.

The house in which William Penn convened the first Pennsylvania Legislature is still standing in Chester, Pa., and is used as a cooper shop.

By the explosion of a boiler of a stationary engine on Caswell's wharf, Charlestown, Mass., on the 28th ult., four laborers were seriously injured.

The pedestrian match for the O'Leary belt came to an end Saturday night. "Lepper" Hughes made 566 miles in the six days, besting all previous records.

Henry Mantel, Mr. Rymer, Daniel Fitzgerald and James Doherty, laborers in a lumber yard in New York, were recently bitten by a mad dog, which was subsequently killed.

The appropriation for the improvement of the Mississippi will be apportioned as follows: Between St. Louis and Cairo, \$60,000; between Cairo and New Orleans, \$1,200,000.

Smallpox has broken out in the Fort Madison (Ia.) penitentiary, creating great excitement and panic. All the foremen of contract work have fled, and work is generally suspended.

Captain-General Blanco has issued an order forbidding the advertisement, private sale or introduction in any form in the island of Cuba of the tickets of the Louisiana or any other foreign lottery.

Moses Tungus, colored, was hanged Friday at Waynesboro, Ga., for the murder of Dennis O'Driscoll. Frank, a brother of the condemned, was reprieved, as Moses confessed that he alone was guilty.

The Charter Oak Range in our kitchen is a grand success, the best range we have ever used, and we cheerfully recommend it with a clear conscience, knowing we do our friends and neighbors a favor who are looking for a first-class range.

A joint resolution for the printing of 50,000 copies of the special report of the commissioner of agriculture relative to the disease of swine and other domestic animals was on Friday passed by the house.

A heavy shock was plainly felt at Montgomery, N. Y., on the 27th ult. Many people supposed it to have been a boiler or powder mill explosion. In one house the keys were shaken out of the locks of the doors.

The execution of Cleophas Lachance for murder took place on the 28th ult. at Arthabasca, Quebec. He confessed his guilt. Lachance, in October last, killed Miss Deslet because she resisted his improper advances, and afterwards threw the body into a well.

Miss Clara Frick, of Pittsburg, threw a joint of fine coal on the fire on the night of the 24th ult., and a loud explosion followed, injuring the lady painfully. It is supposed to have been caused by a bottle of powder accidentally dropped in the coal by a miner.

A dispatch from Kansas City says Prof. O. C. Hill, principal of the Normal school at Oregon Hall Co., Mo., will be private secretary to President Garfield. Prof. Hill was one of the faculty of the college at Hiram, O., when Mr. Garfield was president of that institution.

Internal Revenue Agent Downing telegraphs Commissioner Raun from Jacksonville, Fla., that he has captured a large illicit distillery in Lafayette county, where it was in operation. This capture created surprise at the Internal Revenue Bureau. It is presumed that the raw materials used by the fraudulent distillers were sugar cane and molasses.

"I don't believe in these secret societies," said one lady to another. "That's very singular," replied the other. "Your husband is a Forester, a Knight of Pythias, and a Knight of Honor, and you will have at least \$10,000 when he dies." "But what good does all that do me?" was the tearful response, "when he never dies?" And the poor creature burst into tears.

Tho. J. Stull, a farmer from McLeanburg, Ill., was arrested on the 25th ult., charged with the murder of an unknown man, in an alley in St. Louis. Stull was on a spree, and plead that he was assaulted by the man and two others for the purposes of robbery. The coroner's jury acquitted him on the grounds of justifiable homicide. This action may be set aside by the grand jury.

Eleven years ago Miss Harvey, of Condor, Tioga county, Pa., held a pin between her lips while dressing, which passed into her mouth and was supposed to be swallowed. Recently an extremely painful swelling appeared upon one side of her tongue, from which Dr. L. D. Farnham removed a pin two-thirds covered with lime, formation, and much corroded. The lady's health has much improved since.

Mr. Dawes has presented to the Senate a petition signed by John Welsh, Bishop Simpson, Rev. Joseph Cook, Wendell Phillips and 32,000 other individual signers, with the signature of nature churches, benevolent and other societies, representing in all more than 50,000 citizens, praying Congress to observe the treaties heretofore made with the Indian tribes, and in future to do justice to the remnants of the race.

A remarkable case of fasting is reported from Ipswich, England. The wife of a gardener named Lockwood has not eaten a pound of solid food for the last year, and for the last three months has only taken a few drops of weak tea, less than a pint per month. She is reduced to a skeleton, unable to move her head or open her eyes or mouth. She can moisten her lips with the finger of her right hand, but otherwise is unable to move. She faints at the least excitement and lies for hours and days in a state of coma. In one instance she laid so for a fortnight. When she desires to call attention she sighs deeply. When not insensible her mental faculties are almost unimpaired. Her physician says she suffers from pressure on the brain.

A fair young mother with a crying babe in her arms sat in a western stage coach. On the opposite seat was a prominent politician of engaging manners. By-and-by he said: "Let me hold your baby; perhaps I can soothe it." "Oh, no, I'm much obliged; you could not help me any," was the answer. "But," he persisted, "you had better let me try." "You are very kind, but I know you couldn't help me, for he is hungry," replied the blushing mother.

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## Live Stock Breeder.

## FOOD ADULTERATION.

Illinois will probably be the pioneer State in the new movement against food adulteration, and it is hoped that Missouri and other States will follow speedily in the same direction. American ingenuity is devised in these vile deceptions to an extent that would cause general alarm were the facts known. Consumption of liquor is to be deprecated in any sense, but how much more so when the "old brands" of whiskies, wines and brandies are compounded of drugs under the bar-room counter, and are calculated to drive the consumer to frenzy. The delicate stomach of the innocent child is loaded with terra-alba, in the shape of enticing confectionary and results in dyspepsia, decay of the teeth, and, by overtaxing the power of the digestion in the struggle to get rid of the weighty stuff, results in positive and early breaking down of the health. In sugar, coffee flour—indeed, in all the condiments and composites of the table, the subtle hand of the chemist is employed for the purpose of injuring the many that the few may become the richer.

In this connection, it is not pleasant to think that not many months ago, a member of the U. S. Senate and members of the House of Representatives visited manufacturers of oleomargarine and were feted to a state of imbecility, in New York and Baltimore. These "representatives of the people" indulged in some antics and buffooneries that were disgraceful. One specimen brick being from a prominent senator, who designated the bogus stuff as "delicious," and, furthermore, that if he had a dairy he would kill all his cows and close it up when oleomargarine was to be procured. This was regarded as merely a trifling piece of business at the time, but could there have been a more decided proof of a proneness to break faith with the people who put them in their high office, for it is not only the producer of pure butter and pure cheese who suffers, but it is everybody upon whom the fraud is practiced. In fact, the consumer who is taking into his stomach a compound simulating a nutritious article of food without containing the least element of nutrition, is, by a long ways, the most unfortunate of the two.

The movement on the part of the manufacturers of this stuff is that they be allowed to vend the compound under its proper name. Now, it is a fact that will not stand controverting that it has always been passed in wholesale circles for what it was, for experiments would readily determine that; yet millions of pounds have passed over the counters of retailers, and it would be mere mockery to ask the question, "How many of these did not sell it for what was asked for—pure butter?" How then is the matter to be improved? It is a paradox for the law to solve, and solve it must. The exhibit is an exportation of 23,000,000 pounds of bogus butter from this country last year. An expert, traveling for a well known firm in this city, says that throughout the state of Texas "butterine," or oleomargarine, can be found on the table at every town. The people do not seem to know the difference, but, in time, their stomachs will intimate irregularity, which will require immediate inquiry. There is no more insinuating breeding of dyspepsia than these same compounds.

Now that the issue is made, the dealers in fine butter will have to make the fight. Already Mr. Tivvy, of St. Louis, has declared himself openly, honestly and candidly in connection with the topic, and next week we will publish an interesting interview on the subject, showing how the matter is worked in the St. Louis market.

## Foot and Mouth Disease.

An outbreak of foot and mouth disease in England has resulted in an order in council, which places such restrictions on the movement and exhibition of cattle that practically half the cattle trade of the kingdom is under embargo. English papers offer congratulations that the Christmas stuffing was over before this new misfortune occurred, but like good feeders as they are, they deplore the rise in beef that is sure to ensue. When England is out of the question herself, she does not always disbelieve in low diet. For instance, Beaconsfield has remarked in his surprisingly easy way, "That a famine in Ireland is not the worst thing that could happen that troublesome island." The Indian tiger may be brought to subjection by small diet and the iron rod. But inanition and buckshot to the Irish only acts as a leaven that produces extraordinary goings on, truly awful to John Bull, who personally would like to enjoy uninterrupted the contentment that is influenced by his own well-filled stomach.

There was the bouncing of Boycott (a nice gentleman through English spectacles). Those Irish are never satisfied; it was next bounce Jones. Then the traversers walked out of court. And to cap all, the boys in the House keep up such a perpetual turmoil that respectable English members have to sing: Lullaby, Baby, to their aged chit. They (the boys) move progress, and by reverse, everything stands still in the legislative temple that is supposed to sway the destinies of an empire on which the sun never ceases to shine. Oh! Ireland, you are making yourself fat. "First flower of the earth, and first gem of the sea."

Excuse this digression. We are a nation of sympathizers, and we merely wished to show that the foot and mouth disease is but one of the many troubles besetting our English cousins. At present the meat question in England is overshadowed by much greater events. It merely helps to balance the commercial scale in our favor. But if in time the roast beef of America should become as household words to the people over the water, we will not be dissatisfied, for the words have an agreeable jingle in them that ought to be gratifying to our feelings as a trading people.

The east has recently received an installment of foot and mouth disease from England, and although the disorder may never reach the west, we take it that the western stock raiser should know something about an epizootic that is disturbing the cattle trade of Great Britain, and which of necessity must have a greater or less influence on our

Eczema contagiosa (foot and mouth disease) is a febrile disorder; and as its name implies, is highly contagious. It is not entirely confined to horned cattle, sheep suffer severely from the disease; dogs, pigs and poultry are not exempt from its infection, nor even is the human subject. After being exposed to its exciting cause, there is a period of incubation from two to four days. When the disease develops itself by an increased animal temperature, varying from to five degrees above the natural standard—the appearance of large vesicles on the lips and mouth—smaller ones about the digits, which cause lameness and sometimes the separation of horn from the sensitive foot. After a while the scabs fall off, infecting the pasture or even pastures at a great distance, through those excretions being transported by the feet of game, vermin, dogs or the person of an attendant. The symptoms from which the disease derives its popular name, are the eliminations of a morbid poison affecting the entire system. The disease is not often fatal, nor does one attack modify or prevent a second.

In bad forms of the disease, cows become nearly dry, and in milder cases the loss of milk is usually about one-third. But until the animal has entirely recovered from the disease, that fluid is used for any purpose whatever, for if it is administered to pups, litters of swine, or other young animals, it acts as a down-right poison. The losses that result from foot and mouth disease are mainly included in condition and milk; and as ruminants usually make an entire recovery, the influence that this epizootic may have on our trade is merely evanescent.

## Spaying Cows on Foot.

COL. COLMAN: I see in the RURAL WORLD that information is wanted about how to spay aged cows on foot. I have followed that business for several years. My plan is to place the cow in a stall and make her head fast to a post, then make an opening in the left side large enough to admit the hand, on which I have a false thumb nail made from a piece of saw blade, with which I sever the ovum without molesting other parts. The false nail should be made so as to fit snug around the nail of the thumb and extend back to the joint and lie around the thumb so as to hold it on.

Any one wishing work done in this line can procure my services by giving a job large enough to pay expenses. Whitehill, Ills. Wm. CORN.

## Attention to Stock.

The following hints in regard to stock, from the Iowa Register, are timely:

In 23 years we have not heard as much complaint, by newspapers and personally, about the lack of water for stock as at present. In parts of the State, streams and ponds at the commencement of winter were low, and in many cases dry. The winter has been extremely cold, and shallow streams have frozen to the bottom. Wells have failed, and cattle are unable to get enough to quench their thirst. The weather has been too inclement to drive them any great distance, and cattle have been compelled to lick snow to satisfy in a partial degree their thirst. But this will tell heavily on the flesh and growth of the animals. Farmers relying on stock raising and dairying, if not near a never-failing stream, must provide ample wells, and supply their stock by the aid of windmills. And this is far better than watering from streams, as the latter are ice cold and will require much more food to counteract this cold, and keep up the warmth of the system. With wells and windmills a farmer can have his water for stock just where he wants it, and of the right temperature. Instead of being at about 32 degrees, it will be, if freshly pumped up, about 55 degrees. And the difference in the growth of the herd of cattle, as well as in flow of milk, will soon pay for the most ample wells and mills. In warm and mildest winters this is not so much needed, yet there are times in all winters when convenient water of proper temperature would be greatly desirable. Besides the profit in these matters there is considerable humanity involved in the comfort of the domestic animals, all classes of which need plenty of water in winter as well as in summer.

This is a trying time for stock which are not provided with comfortable shelter. There is no food in the fields, and the stock is entirely at the mercy of the owner. Neglect now will be a serious loss in flesh, and cause of much misery to stock. There is no time for idleness or neglect for sleigh rides. Iowa has a vast interest in stock, and there is a demand for a much vigilance now as there is in midsummer when the ripening harvest demands all of the energies. Stock must have a plenty of water and food. For the next two or three months corn should be used liberally but wisely. There is plenty of it and cheap. Let the cattle have it. There is warmth and back-bone in it. Stay home and take care of them. Do all that is possible to make them comfortable. There is religion as well as money in it.

The predictions relative to the future supply of hogs or beesves for any particular period are about as reliable as future predictions of the weather. But the intense cold, which has prevailed for a month, will tell heavily on the number of ripe beesves ready for early spring markets. Unless there be a lot up soon, and the spring is an unusually early one, western cattle men will sustain very heavy losses. As a general rule cattle went into the winter in a better condition than usual. But in parts of Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado the ground has been covered with snow to a considerable depth, and it is reported that cattle are suffering for food and water. Even in Iowa, hay is scarcer than usual. A large number of farmers have their corn in the fields, so that no use can be made of the stalk fields. On the plains the prospect is worse, as the ground is covered

to considerable depth with snow, and only

where it is drifted, leaving the ground bare in places, can anything be had for food. Different from what it is in Iowa, where there is a plenty of cheap corn, on the plains it is dry grass or nothing. This makes the present outlook anything but flattering, except to those who have their stock in good quarters and plenty of rich food. The remarks relative to stock on the plains, apply to a limited degree as far south as Texas, as the cold wave has extended over that State to an unusual degree, and though not as intense as further north, yet less cold there is as injurious as more further north. Consequently those who have good beesves next spring and early summer will be likely to get a good price for them. The winter is only half gone, and yet we have more cold already than all of an average winter. If the latter half should supplement the former, cattle and owners will suffer seriously in flesh and pocket.

## J. Lucas Turner's Jerseys.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: I have had the following births in my herd of Jerseys:

Bonnie Lou (11479).—By Duke of Magnolia (2826), dam Acorn of Staatsburg (2890).

Ettie, solid color (10315).—By Duke of Magnolia, dam Jeanette (5274).

Belle of Kinloch, solid color (11478).—By Duke of Magnolia, dam imp. Belle of Normandy (8079).

Miss Sady, solid color (11480).—By Duke of Normandy (3446), dam imp. Baisey (8077). J. LUCAS TURNER. Columbia, Mo., Jan. 26, 1881.

## Imported Stallions.

NEW YORK, January 26.—Three mammoth Clydesdale stallions are stabled in the United States bonded stables in this city, awaiting removal to Nebraska. They are splendid specimens of the Clydesdale breed of horses, and have enormous feet and legs. They are not handsome or showy from an artistic point of view, as their legs seem short and massive, and are covered with hair, while their manes are also full and bushy. The judges of horses, however, say that the animals are some of the finest specimens that have arrived here for a long time past. They arrived a few days ago from Scotland in the steamer Anchorage, and are the property of Mr. Reeside, who is taken them to Nebraska. They have not been injured in the least by the voyage. They are black, brown and bay, and are valued at about \$8,000. The brown stallion is four years old, 17 hands high, and weighs nearly 1,900 pounds. There also arrived in the same steamer, four magnificent for hounds for Maj. Shirely, of Kentucky.

## The First Importations of Stock.

The following account of the first importations of stock into the United States is taken from the columns of the Irish Farmers' Gazette: "In 1610 four cows and one bull, after a long and dangerous passage by sailing vessels, were landed in Virginia from Ireland. These were the first domestic cattle sent to America. In 1625 eighteen ewes and two rams were introduced into New York by the Dutch West India Company. The first horses landed in any part of North America were carried over to Florida by Cabeca de Vaca in 1527; they all perished. The wild horses found on the plains of Texas and the western prairies are probably descendants of the fine Spanish horse abandoned by De Soto. In 1625 part of the trade of the Dutch West India Company was the carrying of horses from Flanders to New York, and that year six mares and a horse were safely transported from France to America. The London company were the first exporters of swine from Britain to America; and in the year 1621 they carried on their vessels no less than 84, which were, on landing, allowed to roam at large and feed and fatten on the mast, which was very abundant in the woods. They increased so fast that in 1627 the colony was in danger of being overrun with them, but the Indians acquiring a taste for fresh pork and the novelty of hunting hog, that calamity was averted. So important was it considered at that time that the cattle, horses and sheep introduced into the infant colony should be preserved and allowed to increase, that the governor issued an order prohibiting the killing of domestic animals of any kind, on pain of death to the principal and to the alderman and abettor or accessory. In 1639 horned cattle, horses and sheep had increased to 30,000. In 1679 there were over 40,000,000 sheep, 30,000,000 cattle (of which over 12,000,000 were milk cows), 15,000,000 horses, 2,000,000 mules, and 300,000 swine in the United States.

J. R. TURNER. Fredericksburg, Madison Co., Mo., writes us he wishes to purchase two good, heavy, serviceable brood mares. Mares of this kind can be had at almost any time in St. Louis, but a man must be a good judge of a horse who buys in a city, or he may get "bit."

Van Blarcom, the boss fine harness maker of St. Louis, has moved from 507 Sixth street to 613 North Seventh street. Van cannot be beat anywhere in getting up fine single and double harnesses, bridles and horse paraphernalia generally. He uses only the best leather, and his work is cut out and put up in the very latest style. Those wanting anything pertaining to the harness line should leave their orders at Van Blarcom's Harness Store, 613 North Seventh street, St. Louis, Mo.

E. C. SIMMONS, Esq., of St. Louis, has purchased of Mr. Clark Bell, the roan filly Centennial's Sister, by George Wilkes, out of the dam of Centennial. She reached St. Louis on the 12th ult. Mr. Bell thinks she is the best-bred filly he has ever raised, and one of the most promising. The terms were private but Mr. Simmons must have paid a long price to get her. Mr. Robert Bonner has Centennial from same dam, by a half-brother of Wilkes, and the same color—spirit of the Times.

A card signed by President O. Bill, and Secretary E. M. Shelton, informs us that a breeders' institute will be held, under the auspices of the Central Kansas Breeders' Association, in Manhattan, February 15th and 16th, for the purpose of discussing questions connected with the improvement and management of live stock. A number of gentlemen, prominent in live stock matters, have promised to be present and furnish papers and addresses. The work of the institute will be divided into sessions, beginning promptly at 2 p. m. February 15th. The

forenoon of February 16th will be devoted to visiting the Agricultural College and herds of the vicinity, for which conveyances will be provided.

Mr. Isaac A. Chase, Goshen, Ind., has purchased the following horses: From W. D. Walden, Clinton, Iowa, the yearling filly Rattler Maid, by Almont Rattler, dam by Vosburg. From Judge W. L. Hayes, same place, the weanling colt Pavone, by Almont Rattler, dam Pavonia by Peacock; also the Elliott mare, by a son of Abdallah.

## The Shepherd.

Edited by R. M. Bell, of Brighton, Macoupin Co., Ill., to whom all matter relating to this department should be addressed.

## Sheep Visiting.

Now is the time of the year to visit your neighbors and see how they feed and care for their sheep. If you have no neighbors who keep sheep, take a little more time and go further from home to some known care-taker, and stay a day or two. If there is one pleasure more than another to a sheepman with good sheep in good fix, it is to have some one that is an expert in sheep matters to come and "look him over," and criticize his sheep and his handling. Yes, we say criticize, for he is trying to learn and do his best; and if he is not doing it, courts criticism, and takes it as medicine, if he needs it. Visiting stimulates enthusiasm, kindly, benevolent rivalry, and a higher standard of excellence; better processes of handling; better systems of breeding; better practices in breeding and marketing the products of the flock. Were sheep men in the west given to visiting each other, as are Vermont breeders, there would be more careful attention given to all the details of sheep husbandry than there is now. There, no one knoweth who may drop down upon him at any moment. It has become a mania with them to visit the sheep barns and overhaul a man and his sheep. It tends to sharpen a man; it prompts him to keep the best and to get all out of them there is in them. No man with good or bad sheep wants to have visitors to his sheep barn unless they are in condition to look at, and he will have them so, if he expects visitors.

All stock men enjoy showing what they have and how they are managing to get good results. Yet we have thought sheep men exceeded them all in this happiness. There is far less of this than there ought to be, and we urge upon the RURAL WORLD sheep men to inaugurate the practice—the treat of visiting and comparing notes and learning all there is of good or the causes of failure in the handling of sheep among your neighbors. It will pay you and it will pay your neighbors a thousand-fold better than the "go it alone" plan we have been born to or have fallen into by letting alone and being let alone. We are not hog men, but we are sheep men, which ought to mean generous, courteous and sociable gentlemen.

## Best Breed to Cross With.

Subscriber, Saline county, Mo., asks what kind of bucks or breeds are best to improve a flock of ordinary sheep with—Cotswolds, Merinos or others?

This depends upon what you mean to raise them for, how many you mean to keep and how well you mean to keep them.

If we had them, our object would be to make money out of them in wool and mutton, and we should keep them in considerable flocks. So we would use Spanish Merinos to give them hardness, which means health, vigor and constitution to run in large flocks and do well, whether we gave them the best keep in the world or not.

If K. H. Allen had them, he would use Cotswold rams to give them size and early maturity, and then sell them when four years old, so as to have his money out of them before they began to show age and decline. He would breed for mutton, and then feed for it, and as soon as fit for the butcher, get his money out of them.

Some would use Southdown rams for nearly the same results, and would have to pursue nearly the same handling to find profits.

There is no cross you can make that approaches the Merino for making money surely, easily and rapidly, where sheep are to rough it on the farm or on the range on uncertain care, or with the best care, either, in large flocks—say 100 and upwards. If you kept small flocks of 30 to 50, and put them on the top shelf, and market the fat sheep at the right time in the right fitness, any of them—Cotswolds or Downs—will be necessary. As long, though, as we have to import from 66 to 107 million pounds, as we have in the past two years, we need no anxiety on the subject. The increase of our population will more than keep ahead of our production of wool.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: The Texas blue grass is not Bermuda, but a grass native to Texas—found from the center of Texas, north to Red River. It was discovered by Dr. John Torrey during Marcy's exploring expedition in 1853, about one hundred miles north of this. I began its cultivation February, 1876. I will send you some roots about next March. GEO. M. HOOGAN.

Ellis, Texas.

Don't Take any Chances on Life when Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure will regulate and keep you healthy at all times.

The Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College is meeting with great favor. The total number of students in attendance is 300. The new dormitories are about completed, but it is evident (so says the Journal of Starkville, Miss.), that even with the building completed it will not be possible to provide accommodations for all who are seeking admission.

Northern Illinois Sheep Breeders.

The Northern Illinois Sheep Breeders' Association held their annual meeting at Elgin, Ills., Jan. 12. The meeting was the largest and most enthusiastic ever held by the association.

Geo. E. Peck, of Geneva, Ills., was chosen president and W. C. Vanderhook, of Cherry Vale, Ills., was re-elected sec-

retary. Their annual sheep-shearing festival will occur some time in April, time to be fixed by executive committee, and will be reported.

The association adopted the following resolution, copies of which were ordered sent to U. S. Senators Logan and Davis, and Congressman Sherwin:

The Northern Illinois Fine Wool Breeders' Association unanimously urge you to make all proper effort to sustain the present tariff on wools, believing it necessary for the continuance and prosperity of this important industry.

The association voted to award premiums for the best exhibitions of stock and shearing at the festival, and Superintendent Richards was instructed to invite a committee of experts from Wisconsin breeders.

G. E. Peck, W. C. Vanderhook, Daniel and C. B. Kelley, J. Manning and G. W. Hunt were selected delegates to the annual convention of Wisconsin breeders, to be held at Whitewater.

G. W. Hunt, Geo. E. Peck and Daniel Kelley were appointed as experts to attend the Wisconsin sheep-shearing festival, to be held some time in April.

## The Home Circle.

### "HAPPY NEW YEAR."

Out of our lives to the mystical Past,  
The Old Year floated, in night and storm;  
And the frozen snow, like a cere-cloth, lay  
Over the palsied form.

He went as he came, in the rush of night;  
And his sad soul moaned as he passed  
away.

But a twelve-month since, such a goodly king;  
Now—only a pauper, old and gray.

With a princely hand, from his heritage,  
He scattered blessings along his train;  
Some sorrows bestowed, some loss, some  
tears,

Some hours of gladness, and some of pain,  
From the shoulders galled by the heavy load,  
He lifted the burden that sorely pressed;  
To many disengaged, despairing souls

He granted the boon of rest.

So, unto the Old, give meed of tears,  
For he comes to us now, alas! no more;  
How much of our lives, in his withered arms,  
The dying Two-month bore!

No mourning dirge, no peal of bells,  
But only the wild winds wailed his death,  
As he passed away; and the wintry storm  
Caught the "White King's" dying breath.

For e'en as the tide of life ebbed out,  
The waves of another kissed the shore!  
The New was hailed with a clang of bells—  
But the dying was old and poor!

The dirge was lost in the shouts of joy—  
"The King is dead! Long live the King!"

And they turned away from the frozen bier,  
To see what the New would bring.

O, glad New Year! in your happy smile  
How much of the blessing of promise lies!  
How sweetly the angel of love and hope  
Looks out of your shining eyes!

There are promises, too, that you will not  
keep,

And dreams too sweet to be aught but vain;  
And the velvet palm of your smiling fate  
Will deal us enough of pain.

There are grand resolves for the coming day,  
A "turning of leaves," and a higher aim;  
A putting away of forbidden things,  
New Year, in your magic name.

There are struggles to loosen the clasp of  
vice,

And longings and reaching for better  
things;

And prayers from the tempted and sorely  
tried,

For the strength that the New Year brings.

O, year so sweet in your snowy birth!  
We would that the blessedest things that be,  
Should follow your day to its eventide,  
With mercy and love and charity.

We would that the blessings of peace and  
health,

May follow swift in your passing train,  
For every sorrow a healing balm—

A smile of joy for tear of pain.

Sedalia, Mo., Jan. 1881. IDYLL.

### Letter from Nina.

I looked out of the window yesterday morning, and beheld coming up the road a young man in a drab hunting-jacket, with a dog and a gun in a leather case. The gun was in the case, the dog was not.

I called the household to watch out of the window and see if he was coming in, while I hastily tore off my calico cooking apron, dropped the chopping knife with which I had been chopping mince-meat, and cast a hurried glance in the looking glass to see if my collar was all right.

"Who do you think it is?" I asked, hurrying back to the window, just as the object of our gaze was entering the gate,

My mother thought it must be Western Echo who had migrated to southeast Missouri.

I thought if anyone had "migrated," it must have been Avis.

Aunt Dorcas Simlin, who had come to spend the day, and brought her knitting along, thought it must be the editor of the RURAL WORLD.

She had just been reading an account of his first deer hunt.

But all our suppositions were wrong. The unknown proved to be one of the "types" who had come down to shoot a few turkeys, deer, etc., for Christmas.

My brother-in-law invited him down to stay a week, and he had lost his way. He has not had much success in hunting, so far. His dog, a very fine 'tter, but untrained, gets into a panic when he sees a squirrel or a rabbit, and dashes off in terror.

Daisy, you would like him, I know—not the dog, but the young man. He has dark eyes and is just twenty-two. I don't admire boys myself, but I admire his gun. It is a breech-loading shot-gun, and puts our time-honored weapon entirely out of countenance. I am trying to save forty dollars now, to buy me one like it. If I can't get the premium clock, I will be satisfied with a new gun.

I shall be delighted to go to the cotton-picking, Daisy. I will invite those you mention, also Miss Ted, Critic and some of the others. For my escort, since you don't like old bachelors, though I do, I will invite Western Echo and Widower, Walnut, Cousin Charlie, Paulus, Clodhopper, Murphy, Jr.—if he has escaped that widow—and any of the rest who are not too dignified to enjoy such a frolic. Please meet me at the depot in time.

When summer comes, we will consider Walnut's suggestion about going to the mountains. Cousin Charlie would do for a guide, in view of his interesting travels.

Mrs. Bucknell, we are delighted to have you with us again. Now don't fail to meet us often.

Bon Ami has not quite forgotten us, it seems, though we thought he had. We hope he and Ixion will come again before very long.

Western Echo wants to know the truth about our Mariette. Well, then, the truth is, according to my information, that if there was any smoking in the case at all, it was done by Mariette herself, or himself, rather. Now, Mariette, let me know whether you do really smoke or not.

You see, Western Echo, I'm too bashful to give a description of myself in the Home Circle. When you first asked me to describe myself, I thought you were a young lady, and came very near offering to exchange photographs with you, as I was just going to have

some taken. However, you would not have lost much, for they were not good ones, after all. Why not describe yourself, so I shall recognize you if you happen around, when I am engaged in the cheerful recreation of driving Polly?

Walnut, I really don't like to recall those "curious capers" to our editor's mind. I don't wish to recall to his memory the letter he sent me, demanding which one of us was crazy, as he was very certain one of us was. I believe both of us had a narrow escape, but I never heard what became of the type-setters on that interesting occasion.

avis, it seems you can pay a visit to other departments of the RURAL, though you neglect the Home Circle. How do you account for this? We should like to hear your cheerful notes once more.

May I hope you will succeed in getting the clock. Don't fail to send your second attempt soon.

Enon, Fifty-Seven and Count de Charney, come again, your letters are interesting.

A happy New Year to all. NINA.

### Letter from Minnie F.

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE HOME CIRCLE: For the last week or two I have thought every day that I would write a letter, but each day failed, for it seems I have scarcely a spare minute to read much less to write. I have been quite sick since I wrote last, therefore, I trust the worthy editor will pardon me if my hand is a little shaky.

Daisy Dell, do you really think me a little girl? Indeed, I am not. I am larger and perhaps older than you think. I am twenty years old to-day. And now let me tell to you what I believe I have never mentioned in my letters before, I have been married nearly two years, and have just the sweetest little brown-eyed baby boy you ever saw. He is eight months old.

I am sorry to say I did not get the clock, although I wanted it so badly. I succeeded very well in getting three subscribers, but that was only one-fourth enough. And, alas! having got that many, I failed to get another one. However, I had better success with my club for Peterson's Magazine. I received as a premium a handsome autograph album. How I should like to have each of you write something in it. Will not some one suggest some pretty verses, suitable for writing on the first page of an autograph album? Nina, I believe you write poetry occasionally; suppose you give me some original lines.

It has been a very severe winter in this part of the State, and the ground is now covered with snow to the depth of several inches. But, notwithstanding all the cold weather, Stanberry, our infant city, still continues to improve.

Thanks to those who have said write often. I have not time to write very often, but I shall be glad to join you occasionally when I can. With kindest respect for you all, I remain,

MINNIE F.

### Letter from Stanberry.

HAVING seen a few stray copies of the RURAL WORLD, I have become interested in the Home Circle department, and herewith present my application for membership.

Daisy Dell, as you are kind enough to act as porter for the "dear creatures," will you please present me to Queen Nina? I must confess some embarrassment at the thought of entering into the august presence of a queen; yet, believing, from the tenor of her correspondence, that she is entirely devoid of arrogance, and that kindness of heart predominates in her composition, I come, hoping she will not refuse a plain, country girl's entrance into her courts. All my life I have breathed the pure, fresh air that comes from the hills and valleys of the backwoods of Arkansas; consequently, I am but little acquainted with "city airs" or people of great renown. When I remember that, within the Home Circle, I may meet with counts, lords, nobles, &c., &c., I am tempted to turn back.

I confess to a sympathy for those poor poets our editor consigns to oblivion. But earth's unappreciated poets may be heaven's favored minstrels.

Do not think, my poetical compatriots,

that anything in the shape of verse is poetry. Use a refined discrimination. Compare your productions with the writings of those whom popular judgment pronounces true poets, and if you "chance to fall below Demosthenes and Cicero," do not send your effusions to an editor.

Editors have superior judgment in regard to poetry. Their standard is high and they maintain it with merciless exactness. Do not ask your bosom friend to pass criticism on your verses. If he is tender of your feelings he will not tell you that the rhymes are execrable, that your subject is not appropriate, that you are, though unconsciously, guilty of plagiarism, and that your imitation is inferior to the original. An editor will do that. If you "just must" show your poem to that friend of your heart, enjoy to the full the honey of his praises, and then present him with the offspring of your imagination. He will place it among his treasures, and it will, in time, become a cherished tradition, a mythical creation with a halo of glory about it.

Amber, you think you know me? I am far from feeling sure of what you do. However, your asking if I live near Monroe City makes it more probable. I live at five or six miles' distance from that place. If you can give the initials of my name, I think we may consider that question answered. As I have not the least idea who you are, will you kindly give me some clue?

Schoolmarm, we expect you to reply to Bon Ami's arguments in defense of "the dance."

Daisy Dell, have I offended you by my lack of appreciation of your favorite authors? I acknowledge that I have not read all of Young's "Night Thoughts," or Campbell's "Pleasures of the Imagination." I was quite young when I read a portion of these poems, and perhaps not very appreciative. I have now greater age and broader views, and might find them more congenial. It was my misfortune not to hold in high estimation Rollins' Ancient history and other worthy works.

Alberta, it is so pleasant to have you back. I am sorry I cannot give a recipe for making mince pie.

It seems that we are to have a puzzle department.

I give a sigh of relief when I think these puzzles do not have to be answered by me. Because, if they did, they would never be answered. No puzzle of any description was ever solved by me. I have a rooted objection to working puzzles. But, doubtless, this department will give pleasure to many. I am told it is exciting to hunt out the answers to enigmas.

Daisy Dell, do you like puzzles?

May, pray do not refuse General Jaques' a seat beside you.

Violet Shaw, welcome. Please do not im-

agine that any of us look otherwise than

may all be willing to rest the seventh, but how about working throughout the six?

"Disgraceful!" "Hired hand!" "Servant girl!" "She has to work for her living!" "Why, what would people think?" Is this a Christian land? Is the bible our standard? Do we eat by the sweat of the brow? Work is healthy, ennobling, invigorating, and improves the mental as well as the physical man; and while advocating the Sabbath, let us not forget the first and most important part of the law.

Truth asks why is the first and not the seventh day our Sabbath? The laws of the old bible were given to the Jews for a politico-religious government, which ended on the coming of Christ, who set up a spiritual kingdom instead. The first day was honored by His resurrection, and for that reason has been observed ever since.

SEMPER FIDUS.

Southwest Missouri, Jan. 28, 1881.

### Letter from Sal Baxter.

Look out now, I'm coming; but you need not look scared, I won't hurt. I come to ask the Circle members and everybody else to help me in a great work, a work of consume-

ate importance.

Do you want to know what it is? Well, I'll state the case. You see, leap year comes but once in four years—think of that, will you, once in four years—and politics comes with it, too. There's the rub—abrasion.

How do you suppose Jackson could have whipped Packingham, if Packingham had not been there to have been whipped? Well, that's just it.

When I think of the legions of fair ones who are now retiring war-worn and defeated from the field, whose life-hopes are spoiled or, at least, deferred for four long years, my heart bleeds with compassion.

In vain may Cupid fight, like Jackson, with powder behind cotton breastworks, but if no one be there to conquer no conquering can be done; and man, so narrow-minded, cannot attend at the same time to two different things as politics and love.

Must those terrestrial angels, who were unfortunate, mutely take the scoffs and jeers of Hymen? In the name of ancient maidens, must they? Now, what I want is a little change. Can't we fix it so that leap year would come some other time?

Oh, I can see that gushing young gallant, with his sparkling eyes, as he comes forward to propose to give leap year to politics and the others to the ladies. But will it be done? Who'll second his motion? If all were him no reform would be needed; but man is selfish, he dislikes to lose any advantage, like to lord it over the ladies.

Come Circleists! Rouse up to the magnitude of this matter. Nina, marshall your forces; get you General Jager—something to work, and press on to victory. Widower will be by you, Murphy, Jr., will trot along behind and bark for us, and only think how many will fall into line when the battle begins. Then let her boom. SAL BAXTER.

### Letter from Miss Ted.

Col. Colman has issued another protest against poetry.

I have never sent any of my poetry to him, knowing what its fate would be.

The spirit of poetry cannot be subdued. It suffers and grows strong.

I confess to a sympathy for those poor poets our editor consigns to oblivion. But earth's unappreciated poets may be heaven's favored minstrels.

Do not think, my poetical compatriots, that anything in the shape of verse is poetry. Use a refined discrimination. Compare your productions with the writings of those whom popular judgment pronounces true poets, and if you "chance to fall below Demosthenes and Cicero," do not send your effusions to an editor.

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kindly on all "intruders." We wish you to feel at home with us, and to help us make others feel at home.

I think we can profitably make individual application of

**Sparkling Soil.**

Perhaps a brief description of this land of gems may interest your readers. This place is about seven hundred miles inland from Cape Town, and about five hundred from Port Elizabeth. To reach Kimberley from Cape Town one has to travel through a country called the Great Karroo, a barren, rocky tract, with scarce any signs of life in it. A more desolate region can scarcely be found. I do not think I saw ten acres, for a distance of two hundred miles, that could possibly be plowed; and, judging from appearances, I think a rat, to travel through the Karroo would need a knapsack on his back well laden with provisions to sustain life on his journey, unless he was of near kin to Dr. Tanner. Kimberley, like its surroundings, is a barren waste, very unpleasing for a family home. Most of the country here is worthless for farming purposes. Water is scarce, wood is very scarce. It is brought here by ox-teams from a distance of a hundred miles, and sold on the market at auction for from \$25 to \$50 per load, according to size and quality. None of it would be merchantable in your city. Old dead wood, dug up by the roots and brought to market roots and all sells from \$25 to \$50 per load; and a load of live wood (unsplit), containing one and a half cords, sells for \$40 to \$50 per load. Potatoes grow to about the size of English walnuts; beets, carrots, onions, cucumbers, and lettuce are luxuries nearly unknown here. The dust and dirt are fearful. I can not describe or do justice to the subject. If fills your eyes, nose, ears, and mats your hair and whiskers; and as for clothes, the natives, who wear none, have the advantage, as the water is hard and miserable, full of dirt, and sells for sixty cents per barrel for washing purposes; and as for drinking, something stronger is the common beverage here. But the diamonds! It is truly a land of diamonds. Already over \$125,000,000 worth have been discovered. In the late war one of the chiefs (Sacau) offered a quart measure full of diamonds for a cannon. Claims of thirty-one square feet having sold for \$49,000 per claim. The mines are all worked by large companies. The largest is French company. The manager informed me that their expenses were \$70,000 per month. They take out of their claims four hundred loads of diamondiferous earth per day, worth on a average \$14.40 per load. There are several large companies in the mine. A mile and a half from here is another mine called Old De Beers' mine. Three miles further there is another one called Du Tait's Pan, and one mile from that is another called Bulpantin. All these are extensively worked by large companies. Bulpantin mine was originally a farm, on which was built a brick house, and on the discovery of diamonds the house was found to contain the precious gems in the plaster used to lay the brick and in the plastered walls, while the children played with what they called "the shiny stones." There has recently been a diamond mine discovered eight miles from here called Oliphant's Faztein. Claims to the number of nine hundred have been surveyed and sold in that mine, and people here are wild with speculation. An acquaintance of mine bought claims in Jager's Faztein mine, forty miles from here, which cost him \$700, and in a short time he was offered \$33,000 for said claims. It seems that men are like bubbles the world over. Some go up and explode financially, the exploding portion being by far the most numerous. The penalty for buying a diamond of a negro is five years' imprisonment at hard labor and a fine of \$2,000 for the first offence, and ten years for the second. And yet the temptation is so great that out of a population of 16,000 there are over 600 now in prison for illicit diamond buying and diamond stealing. Some of the prisoners are worth \$40,000 to \$200,000. Surely, the way of the transgressor is hard.

**Poison Ivy.**

The poison ivy is very poisonous to some persons; they are poisoned by not touching it at all, or even, it is said, passing near it, while others may handle it without being afflicted by the contact in the least. The poisonous property of the plant is owing to a volatile acid; its effect is an acute inflammation of the skin, often accompanied by a great swelling. The effects remain sometimes for months before the poison is completely removed from the system. The usual remedies are cooling purgatives and an external application of lead water. An application of a solution of hops has been known to prove an effectual remedy when all other remedies failed. The plant has sometimes been mistaken for Virginia creeper, to which it bears no slight resemblance. The distinguishing feature is that the poison ivy has three leaflets, whereas the Virginia creeper's leaves have five leaflets. Persons have been poisoned by mistaking the poisonous for the harmless species. This plant is of the genus *rhus sumac*. There is also an upright plant that is poisonous.

**The Dangers of Childhood.**

Though many children suffer and die from an insufficient quantity of food, many more suffer severely and many die from its improper quality, which renders it strictly no food at all. To this cause may be traced innumerable cases of wasting in children—rickets, with all its train of hideous deformities—stunted growth and crooked limbs—disturbances of stomach and intestines, and many afflictions which form a vast chapter in the history of children's diseases. It is by no means uncommon for a doctor to hear from the mother of miserable and wasted child, which numbers its age by months only, that its appetite is excellent, and even voracious, and, on inquiry to learn that it shares the family diet of pork and potatoes, eating "whatever we do" as the mother says, with an air of complacent satisfaction that she at least has no share in the production of her infant's malady. Less glaring breaches of physiological law are still more common, and we find many children diseased and dying, starved from being prematurely studded with flour and broad an various articles of farinaceous material; grouped together under the ironical name of "Food for Infants." Sanitarium for December.

**The Lemon Juice Cure.**

Somebody, who appears to know all about it, writes positively that it will draw the sting out of hot weather, not only for this time, but for months to come, to understand the right use of lemons. Most people know the benefit of lemonade before breakfast, but few know how it is more than doubled by taking another at night also. The way to get the better of a bilious system without blue pill or quinine is to take the juice of one, two or three or more lemons, as the appetite craves, in as much ice water as makes it pleasant to drink without sugar, before going to bed. In the morning on rising or at least half an hour before breakfast, take the juice of one lemon in a goblet of water. This will clear the system of humors and bile, with mild efficacy, without any of the weakening effects of calomel or congress water. People should not irritate the stomach by eating lemons clear; powerful acid of the juice, which is almost corrosive, invariably produces inflammation after a while, but properly diluted, so that it does not draw or burn the throat, it does its full medical work without harm; and when the stomach is clear of food has abundant opportunity to work on the system thoroughly.

**Cure for Whooping Cough.**

This has been considered one of the few incurable diseases. Physicians usually say that it must take its course: two weeks of incubation preceding the spasms, four weeks of gradually increasing number and power of the paroxysms and from six weeks to six months of restoration to health. Often this malady is followed by pneumonia, bronchitis or extreme physical exhaustion, ending in lingering illness or death. When the paroxysms are very violent, patients often rupture blood vessels or the delicate membranes of the ear, eye or other organs. The disease is increasing in virulence. The number of deaths in New York City has reached 489; in the city of London the appalling number of 6,000 annually. It has been known to some of the medical profession that persons suffering from whooping cough, asthma, bronchitis, catarrh, croup and the other symptomatic diseases, experienced quick relief, and sometimes rapid cure, by breathing the vapors arising from the open purifying boxes at gas works. This fact was discovered by a French physician in 1865, and published. Shortly after, the gas works of this country were visited and now it is quite common to see several patients gathered about a purifying box inhaling the strong vapors.

The secret of this relief has recently been discovered. A Providence (R. I.) chemist procured the condensed hydrocarbon deposited in the bottom of the purifying box, and by analysis ascertained it to be creosole (C. b. H. 5 C. H. 8 O.), a coal tar product somewhat similar to carbolic acid, but possessing far greater power in destroying the germs of contagious diseases. Vaporized in a closed room, the paroxysms in pertussis (whooping cough) are checked immediately, and ordinarily in five nights the patient entirely recovers.

Persons suffering from chronic asthma and unable to recline at length, can assume a recumbent position and sleep easily all night. Bronchitis and croup are quickly relieved. Diphtheria and scarlet fever are not only often cured, but it is impossible for these dreaded diseases to be communicated to others.

The contagion germs deposited in bedding, carpets, clothing, wall paper, or floating in the air, are instantly destroyed by the powerful vapor of cre-

ole, which is carried in the air everywhere. A sick room—indeed the entire house—can be instantly perfumed with exact fragrance of cologne. Florida water, bay water, etc., the odor remaining for hours.

These results are made possible through the use of a very ingenious but simple metal vaporizer, which consists of a stand six inches high, supporting a cup which contains a half ounce of liquid. Under this cup is a disk, against which the direct rays of heat given off by a toy kerosene night lamp strike, and thus modified to the bottom of the cup. This produces perfect volatilization.

**The Poultry Yard****Eggs in Winter.**

Every farmer who knows anything knows that it pays to have eggs to sell in winter when the price is anywhere from 20 to 40 cent a dozen, but not one farmer in twenty takes the slightest pains to persuade his hens to lay in cold weather. They grumble and growl about their fowls, and are eternally rehearsing the same old story about the preverence of hens who will "lay well enough when eggs are cheap, but will quit entirely as soon as the price goes up."

One man declares that he "don't take much care of his hens in winter, because they don't lay enough to half pay for what they eat," never once thinking that the failure to produce eggs results from lack of proper food, shelter and care. Many farmers who use common sense in caring for their horses, cows, sheep, and swine, exhibit a wonderful amount of ignorance and stupidity when it comes to managing poultry, and the flocks of twenty or thirty hens instead of being a source of "revenue" barely pay their way in summer, and eat their "heads off" in winter. Whose fault is it? Not the hens' surely. A hen can not run an egg machine without a supply of raw material to work on any more than the Israelites of old could make bricks without straw. What would these farmers think of a man who sheltered his cow in a rail pen, fed her on straw, let her go without water, and then growled because she did not produce as much milk as when on clover pasture in June? To put it mildly they would call him a fool. Draw your own conclusions.

A medium-size egg contains 127 grains of albumen, 94 grains of fat, 13 grains of ash and 668 grains of water. To those who have never "studied up" these things the amount of water seems large, but it is less than in beef, while the amount of fat and muscle forming material is greater than in fat beef. No animal foot enough to imagine that hens can manufacture such a highly nutritious article of food unless they are provided with plenty of raw material in the shape of egg-making food, and a comfortable house to work in?

It is just as easy to have eggs to sell in winter as in summer, and a great deal more profitable. Don't tell me "it ain't natural" for hens to lay in winter. It is just as natural for hens to lay in winter as it is for cows to give milk in winter. Give your fowls comfortable houses and with proper food and care they will lay, because they know best themselves.

No livestock on the farm will pay as well in winter as a flock of hens properly managed. Farmers, look to this, turn over a new leaf with the New Year, and give care to your stock, and you will never have cause to complain that hens "eat more during the winter than all the eggs they lay in a year will pay for."—[Fanny Field in Prairie Farmer.]

**The Apiary.****Wintering Bees.**

Seventy-five per cent. of the bees that are lost during the winter die before the first of February. During the forepart of the winter they consume very little; even those that are allowed to starve later in the season usually have sufficient to last them until about that time. It is a shame and disgrace for any one to allow their bees to starve to death; just as much so as to starve a horse or cow, especially when so little trouble would prevent it. Liquid food cannot well be given them at this season of the year. Candy made from coffee "A" sugar is just as good, or really better than syrup, and is much handier fed. Put sugar sufficient to make what candy you need in a tin pan with just enough water to dissolve the sugar nicely, more water will do no harm, only it will have to be evaporated by boiling. Care must be taken not to allow it to burn while baking. If burned it will be fatal to the bees. Allow it to boil until it begins to wax; then drop a little at a time in a cup of cold water. As soon as sufficiently cooked, remove from the fire; stir until the mass begins to turn white, to granulate; pour into plates to cool. If preferred the candy can be made directly in a broad flame to hang in the hive; by laying an empty frame on the table, or a flat surface, holding the frame well down to keep the warm candy from running under as it is being poured in. We prefer to have our broken pieces. We can then give what is needed without disturbing the colony but very little, if at all. Go to those colonies you think are weak in stores; raise the cloth lay a few pieces of candy on the frames over the cluster, covering up all close and warm. Should you be so unfortunate as to have honey boards over the frames, they should be removed, for the bees cannot travel any distance from the cluster after food during cold weather; so the candy must be placed in close contact with the cluster. Bees in boxes can be fed by carrying the hives in the cellar, or in a dark warm room; invert the hives, pushing the combs a little apart pushing the pieces of candy down among the bees, covering the mouth of the hive with a cloth.—Indiana Farmer.

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In the fall, when the leaves have lost all of their sap, and the insects or plant life are all gone, I have seen honey dew on white oak, hickory and chestnut so plentiful that bees were feeding upon it. Now we know the elements of sugar are taken from the earth and air by the growing plants, sugar cane, beets and sugar maple; that is held in solution by the water or the juices of the plant that contains them, that a moist atmosphere is most favorable to their growth and abundant formation. I think that the best source of that honey dew on which bees feed is found in the fact that, under certain conditions of the atmosphere, during certain seasons of the year, the elements of sugar, carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen come together in proper proportion with water and this sweet substance is formed.

We may never know how this is done, but this does not overthrow the theory. We do not know just how the sugar maple extracts the elements of sugar from the air and soil on which it feeds, while the poison oak vine that feeds from the same soil and same air produces a deadly poison. Yet, it is nevertheless true.

Many of nature's mysteries are still unsolved by man, and may always remain so. It does not seem from the fact that honey dew is found so late after both the sap and insects are all gone that this is the true source of the production of honey dew. Could not some of our chemists take carbon, 24; hydrogen, 23; oxygen, 22, and two equivalents of water, and see what conditions of heat, light, or other agents are necessary to unite them into sugar? We must look to the great laboratory of nature for the true source from which almost every good comes; and it is certainly more pleasant to the lover of honey to believe that it is formed by direct natural laws than to think it is the secretion of offensive insects.

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NICHOLAS DUNKS;  
on,  
Fried Mackerel for Dinner.

[CONTINUED.]

They descended to the ground floor, crossed a dark narrow passage, ascended another flight of stairs, and entered another small, comfortable-looking room from which daylight was excluded, its absence being supplied by an argand lamp suspended from the ceiling. Upon a table in the middle of the room dinner was spread, consisting of several dishes whose savory odor would have whetted a duller appetite than was Nicholas at that moment.

"Take your seat, Dunks," said Mr. Jenkins, pointing to a chair at the bottom of the table. "Remove the covers, Richard," he continued, addressing a man-servant who stood behind him.

The dish opposite Nicholas being uncovered, disclosed a delicious fried mackerel.

"There, Dunks," said Jenkins, laughing, "when I promised you should dine of something better than fried mackerel, I did not mean you should go without one."

"Am I to begin at the tail?" inquired Nicholas, waxing jocose at the sight of his favorite dish.

"As you like here," replied Jenkins; "but as long as you live, you'll never forget the fried mackerel at the Blue Posts, I guess."

At that moment, Nicholas, raising his eyes, met those of Richard, who was handing him some bread. He started. Where had he seen that indescribable look before? A moment's reflection told him. It was at Temple Bar—the man with whom Jenkins was conversing. But this could not be—the dress, the figure were different; the expression of the eye alone was the same. It was odd, he thought, that two men should possess such a remarkable, such a peculiar, such a very peculiar look, and that he should have met them one day. The master thus settled to his satisfaction, he ate his mackerel; yet ever and anon stealing a glance at Richard, and never doing so without finding his eyes fixed upon him.

Dinner over, the cloth was withdrawn, and Jenkins and Nicholas set to, tête-à-tête, over a bottle of port. The wine was really good, but Nicholas thought it superlatively so. They drank, and laughed, and chatted, and grew as cosy as if they had known each other for years. Jenkins told droll stories, sang droll songs, and pushed the bottle backwards and forwards like a liberal host; so that, what with laughing, talking, and drinking, Nicholas began to see double, just as the door opened, and a gentleman, fashionably dressed, and wearing green spectacles, entered the room.

"Ah, Franklin, is that you?" exclaimed Mr. Jenkins, jumping up and shaking him cordially by the hand—"well, now, I consider this very kind indeed, to give me the pleasure of your company so soon after your return to London. Sit down; we'll have clean glasses and another bottle. I beg pardon; I forgot to introduce my friend; Mr. Dunks—Mr. Franklin."

Nicholas rose from his chair with that balanced stateliness which men are wont to assume when they feel the difficulty of preserving their centre of gravity, and making a profound bow, sat down again. Mr. Franklin returned the salutation with less formality, but equal politeness.

"Well, how are the ladies, Mrs. Franklin and that pretty daughter of yours?" inquired Jenkins, as he filled his glass from a fresh bottle. "I hope you found them quite well on your return."

"Quite," replied Mr. Franklin, "they will be here presently to answer for themselves."

Ladies coming, thought Nicholas, and one of those "that pretty daughter!"—what should he do? He could get on pretty well with men, but the idea of having to converse with ladies daunted him. He wished he could find some excuse to slip away, and go home to Mrs. Dunks. The wine had made him uxorious, and clean obliterated her refusal to try a mackerel for dinner. If wives knew all, they would never quarrel with their husbands for taking a little wine. It makes them so good natured, and as pliable as an old glove.

While ruminating upon these matters, he happened to look at Mr. Franklin. At the same moment Mr. Franklin happened to look at him over his green spectacles, and Nicholas saw two eyes which he had seen twice before that day—the first time at Temple Bar; the second, while they were at dinner. He could not be mistaken. The eyes were the same, but he could trace no resemblance. Mr. Franklin was as unlike Richard, as Richard was unlike the shabby-looking man in the drab coat, long leather gaiters and slouched hat. Why, he could not tell, but there was something about these mysterious eyes which made him feel queer. "Beware!" was in every glance; a mingled expression of cunning and ferocity, which seemed to say, "I am setting a trap, and eager to pounce upon the prey."

It is wonderful what some men will do under the generous influence of the grape. Nicholas suddenly took it into his head to see Richard in the room along with Mr. Franklin, in order to compare their eyes; so stretching out his legs in a free-and-easy manner, and admiring his new Wellingtons, he said, "Jenkins, I wish you would let your manservant call a coach for me. It's getting late, I'm afraid, and Mrs. Dunks will be alarmed."

"Do you think so?" replied Jenkins, "then I'll ring the bell; but we must think this better before we separate."

Mr. Jenkins rang the bell; and filling his glass to the brim, called for bumpers, as he had a toast to give. When Nicholas and Mr. Franklin were ready, Jenkins proposed the health of Mrs. Dunks—"a lady," he said, "whom I have not the pleasure of knowing, but hope to do so before long."

The toast having been "duly honored," as the gentlemen of the press say, Nicholas rose to acknowledge it, which he did in a few expressive words.

He sat down and turned his eyes towards the door to watch for the entrance of Richard."

"I see you are anxious to be gone," said Jenkins. "Where can that fellow be?" and he beat the bell again with great violence.

Presently it was answered, not by Richard, but the withered haridan who had announced dinner.

"I want Richard," said Jenkins, "what's the reason he does not answer the bell?"

The shriveled bag said nothing, but leered significantly at her master. "Bid him fetch a coach for Mr. Dunks," he continued, "and—do you hear?—send up coffee directly."

"Well," thought Nicholas to himself, "if this ain't going strong, I don't know what is."

"Mister Dunks"—and "fetch a coach for Mister Dunks"; and "bring up coffee"! Mrs. Dunks won't believe a word of it, I know."

"Are you related to the Dunkses of Staffordshire?" said Mr. Franklin, addressing Nicholas.

"I rather think I am," he replied, "for my father came out of Yorkshire, and settled in London; so did my mother, and I know she was a Cornish woman."

"The Dunkses of Staffordshire are a very ancient family, I believe," observed Mr. Jenkins.

"Very," replied Mr. Franklin, "they came in with William the Conqueror."

"I've often heard my father talk of him,"

said Nicholas, "but I don't know whether they came to London together."

By this time Nicholas scarcely knew anything. The wine had steeped his senses to forgetfulness, and he began to roll about in his chair as if his stomach was not comfortable. Coffee was brought in. He took one cup, and in a few minutes after fell fast asleep, while muttering something about "Richard—a long while gone—to couch—and what would Mrs. Dunks think?"

And what did Mrs. Dunks think when eleven o'clock came, and twelve o'clock, and no Nicholas? What would any wife think whose husband had gone out as Nicholas went out, and had staid out as he was staying out? Why, of nothing but what she would say to him when he did come home.

The matrimonial philippic had been recited over and over again, from the exclamatory eozidium. "So you've made your appearance at last!"—to the imperative peroration—"and now please to come to bed!" until she had the whole of it at her disposal.

As! that moment never came! The night passed away—the following day—the ensuing week—months—years—and the disconsolate Mrs. Dunks sought, in vain, tidings of her lost husband. Then it was late, that, in the anguish of her bereaved heart, she would often exclaim, "Oh, that I had fried his mackerel for him!"

"Isn't it very remarkable," she would frequently say to her friends, "what can have happened to my poor dear Nicholas. A kinder husband never existed; and he doated upon me, which makes me feel certain that he must have dropped down dead where nobody saw him, or else went to bathe in the Thames and was drowned; but I wish I knew the fact, because then"—and therefore would suddenly stop suddenly, and begin to talk of the difficulty of an unprotected widow woman getting through the world.

Fourteen years and upwards she had passed in this state of cruel suspense, still living in the same house, and "getting through the world" by hook or by crook, so as to always have a tolerably comfortable home; when one day, during the mackerel season, she was summoned to the street door by a loud knock, which, to use her own words, "almost made her jump out of her skin." She opened it, and—

"Will you let me have a fried mackerel for dinner?" quoth Nicholas!

Mrs. Dunks screamed. She would have swooned, too, but she had no time to do that, and ran into the back parlor to tell Mr. Sowerry to run out of the back door, and make his escape over the back wash-house.

Mr. Sowerry was journeyman glazier, who had called that very morning to settle finally about his union with Mrs. Dunks.

Mrs. Dunks, the moment she saw him safe on the other side of the wash-house, went into strong hysterics, and Nicholas sprinkled her face with cold water, and tears of joy ran down his cheeks, to think how the dear creature was overcome at seeing him.

Nicholas could hardly believe his senses when he saw the state to which his affectionate wife was reduced, by the sudden shock of his unexpected return had given to her feelings; and he secretly vowed to repay such devoted love, by studying her happiness all the rest of his life.

But how to clear up the mystery of his long absence.

We left him fast asleep in the company of Jenkins and Franklin. Whether it was the wine alone, or whether the coffee contained something else besides milk and sugar, we will not take upon ourselves to say; but certain it is, he slept so soundly, that he was put to bed without knowing anything about it, and that he did not awake the next morning till he was pretty roughly handled by a son standing by his bed-side.

"Come, friend," said he, rolling him off the bed, "I am sorry to disturb you, but my business won't wait."

"What is your business, who are you?" said Nicholas, half asleep and half awake.

"My name's Sloman."

"I don't know you," interrupted Nicholas, turning around on the other side and settling himself for another sleep.

"And I have a warrant for your apprehension—"

"What!" exclaimed Nicholas, starting up.

"A warrant for your apprehension."

"I warrant you haven't," replied Nicholas, lying down again with his back to the man, and pulling the clothes over his shoulders.

"Is your name Nicholas Dunks?"

"Yes."

"Are you a tailor?"

"Yes."

"Do you live in Maiden Lane, Convent Garden?"

"Yes."

"Are you married?"

"Yes."

"Have you any children?"

"No."

"Is your age forty-two?"

"Yes."

"Then it's all right—so just turn out and come along."

At each successive question Nicholas grew more and more awake; and each successive "Yes" was given in a tone of increasing amazement. By this time a distinct recollection of the preceding day's adventures began to dawn upon him, and he inquired for Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Franklin, Richard, and even the old woman; at which Mr. Sloman only laughed, and asked if he still was dream only, or whether he thought to "do him."

The Chicago Screw Pulverizer

Puts in Crops at Half the Cost of the Flow.

Over 35,000 Acres put in by them in 1880.

PAMPHLETS FREE—CUTS AND LETTERS.

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34 Metropolitan Block, Chicago.

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The Greatest Discovery of the Age.

For over 34 years Dr. Tobias' Venetian Liniment has been warranted to cure Croup, Colic,

Spasms, Diarrhoea and Dysentery, taking internally, and Sore Throat, Pains in the Limbs,

Chronic Rheumatism, Old Sores, Piles, Blotches and Swellings, Internal and External,

the bottle has been reported, many families stating that they would not be without it even if it was \$10 a bottle. Sold by druggists at 25c and 50c.

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